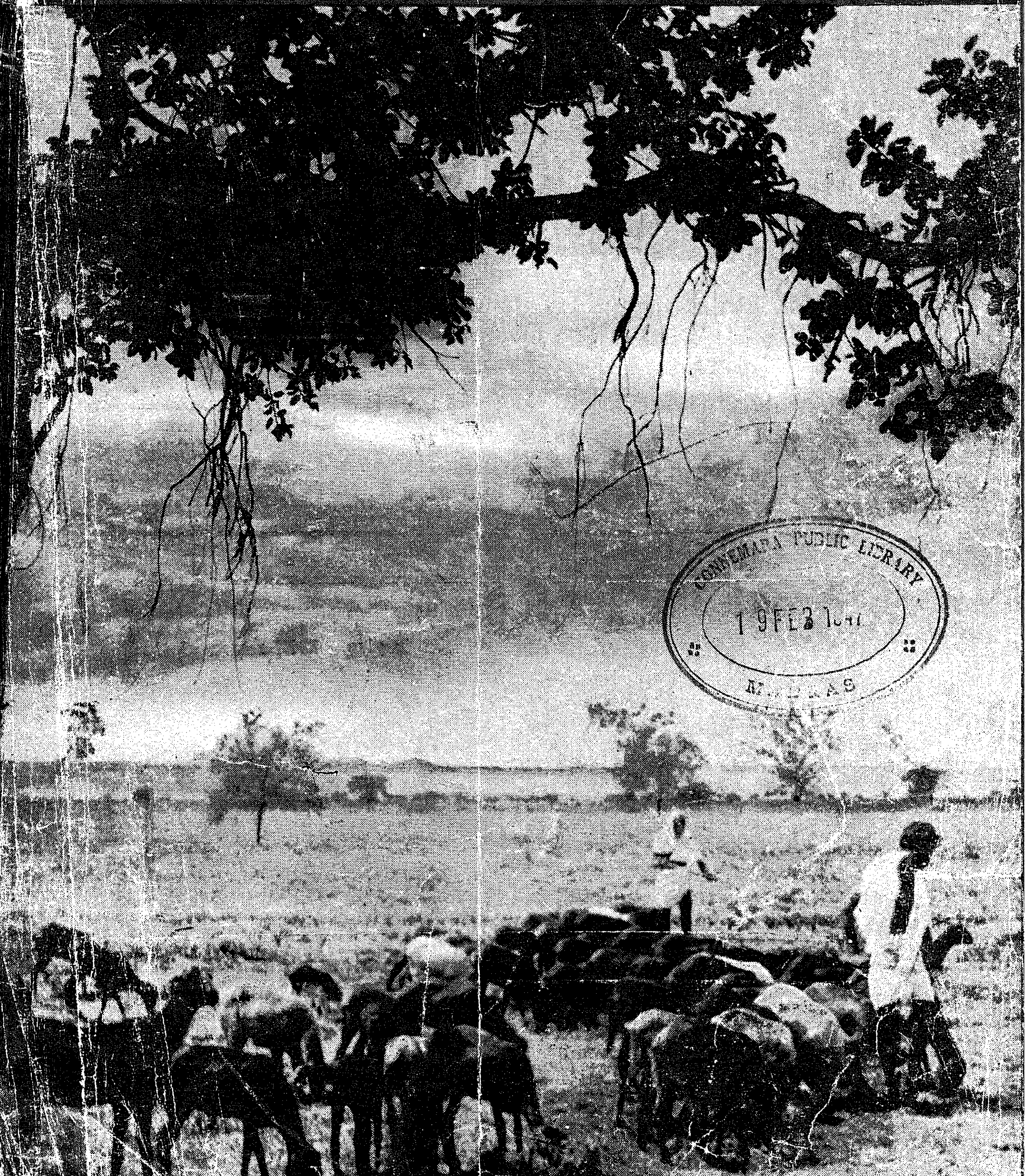
# ADRAS INFORMATION



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## MAIN FEATURES

(1) Editorial Notes

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Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

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The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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Owing to the failure of Messrs. Associated Printers, Ltd., to do the work in time, we regret that we had to drop the issue for the second fortnight of January 1947.

# 'adras Information

'every fortnight by the Director of Information and Publicity
Fort St. George

...n WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE February 8, 1947

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# 'BLIC SAFETY ORDINANCE

...e promulgation of the Public ... provided in abundance by ... statements made by the ...ner in the Legislative Assembly ..., 1947, and in the Council on Jan- ...: The statements contained an ...arration of some of the most vital ...mmunist activities in the province ... few months, all of which were producing a progressively devastating effect on law and order in the province and threatened peace and good government. Fomenting of unrest and a pron[illegible] to defiance of law among industrial workers, incitement of innocent and illiterate Kisans to illegal encroachments on the rights of property of individuals and sections of the people, looting of crops ready for harvest by marching into the fields in large numbers, organization of sit-down and other kinds of strikes of industrial workers in important industrial centres and forcing the police to open fire on them, and last of all, preparation for the defiance of Government and the [illegible] in Malabar particularly, by collecting weapons, are the various links in the chain of Communist activities culminating in the Government's decision to take province-wide action to prevent further mischief. For a long time, Government, as pointed out in the Premier's first statement, forbore from taking action, because they were reluctant, as a popular Government, to do anything which would have had an appearance of interference with the freedom of speech and association and of violation of civil liberties. But their forbearance had only the effect of encouraging the Communist Party to persist in their subversive activities and the freedom [illegible]owed to them actually degenerat[illegible] into a[illegible] to indulge in practices which th[illegible]tened [illegible] safety and security on a large scale and tended to result in widespread unsettlement and unrest in important centres of the Presidency. This was inimical to security and orderly and rapid restoration of the normal conditions of life after the stress and strain of the war period.

The events narrated and the incidents mentioned by the Premier as having happened in Tanjore, Coimbatore and other districts, emphasize the Communist group's deliberate interference with the Government's efforts for restoring normal conditions in regard to the supply of essential needs like cloth and food to the people suffering from acute shortage of these articles. He gave a number of instances to illustrate how the Communists led (or misled) the peasants to march in huge mobs into Mirasdars' fields, and destroyed or looted the crops transforming, as the Premier stated, a district like Tanjore which is the granary of the province into a veritable desert, and how the Communists led (or misled) labourers in the Coimbatore textile mills and systematically fomented labour strikes in the mills thereby seriously handicapping their production. He also gave instances of how in Malabar the Communists and their press organs had been trying to incite innocent Moplahs to rise in rebellion, how they resorted to systematic fomentation of trouble on the agrarian front in the shape of organized trespass into private lands, forcible occupation of lands from which tenants have been evacuated and obstruction to the removal of paddy. In Malabar a significant development in the Communist methods of agitation had been the use of firearms against the Malabar Special Police which was deputed to deal with them. This indubitably indicates, first, that the Communists hav[illegible]

a fight and, second, that they do not hesitate to indulge in violence for the attainment of their ends.

In the Andhra districts the activities of the Communists were not less objectionable, nor their ramifications less wide and their activities less subversive of peace and good government. Systematic incitement of peasants, particularly in Zamindari areas, to occupy lands and take possession of harvests has been an important part of their party programme. On the ostensible plea of exposing black-markets, they had been continuously engendering disaffection against the Government and actually impeding their efforts to check black-markets. A fruitful soil for the sowing of the seeds of the Communist ideology of promoting strikes and disorders and general unrest had been the student community. The Communists had achieved some success for their infiltration tactics among a section of the students, as evidenced from the number of strikes in educational institutions in Andhradesa in recent months, notably Masulipatam and Guntur. The boys in schools and colleges were made the innocent dupes of an organized campaign of incitement to stoppage of work for the redress of all kinds of grievances, supposed and real.

The Communist press in the province had been regularly carrying on a campaign of creating discontent and disaffection by the publication of reports of alleged grievances in a garb which is insidiously intended to show that the Government have been allying themselves with capitalists and other vested interests to suppress the workers and the peasants. And when police action was decided upon to maintain law and order, the step was exploited by the Communist press as an example of the Government's capitulation to the police. It is a method of propaganda in which the Communists are past-masters, namely, deliberate creation of situations in which action becomes indispensable and then turning round to proclaim that the so-called rights of the poor and downtrodden are being suppressed by the authorities with the aid of the police. The existence of a popular Government was sought to be exploited by them for persistent indulgence in all manner of subversive activities; but when the popular Government, in discharge of their elementary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and protection of the lives and properties of the people, took rigorous and strong measures to counteract the mischief, the Communists, seeing that their game was up, are turning against the Government themselves and attacking them for alleged siding with capitalists and vested interests. The writings in the three papers *Prajasakti*, *Desabhimani* and *Janasakti* involved a continuous campaign of incitement to an strikes as if strikes were someth nothing extraordinary, which ca without a second thought. Th press is a sacred ideal but that i preted by the Communist pap with absolute licence to write the strongest advocate of tha as unobjectionable or justified

It is against this backgrou Government's decision to pr Safety Ordinance has to be co there was a case for taking earlier and before the situat developing into serious and in But it was not done because, a said in his statements, "it w for this Government to thi Ordinance and to apply its p in this province. But it co when matters went from ba worse to still worse. We wante worst happening in this province an the Ordinance when forced to have measure of this nature. Members ment had for so many years suffe nance rule and all kinds of repress could speak with greater comp ... should not be that the terms of the Ordinance should not be applied under ordinary conditions to the people of this province." But when forbearance and a reluctance to restrict civil liberties are either misinterpreted as weakness or are going to be regarded as affording indirect countenance to lawless activities, there can be no further desistance from action. The executive authority cannot abdicate their responsibility for the peace and order of the province.

In his statement in the Legislative Council on January 31, 1947, two points were emphasised by the Hon'ble Premier. One is that while Communist activities directed against the maintenance of public peace would be sternly suppressed, the provisions of the measure would be restricted to the strictly limited purpose of maintenance of established authority and preventing dislocation of industry, production and transport, which is of fundamental importance in the present context of food and cloth shortages. The second is that the Ordinance will be placed in the form of a Bill before the Legislature and the Legislature's approval would be obtained for it. These statements reveal the anxiety of the Government to assure public opinion as much about the imperative need for the a... taken now as about their intention to s... popular sanction for the measure at the ... possible moment.

# Agricultural Income Tax Bill

The Agricultural Income-tax Bill, which the Madras Government propose to introduce, is not a measure designed merely for providing the Government with a source of additional revenue. That intention is, of course, not denied; nor is it denied that it will have that result, particularly as the Government have now embarked on a series of measures of reconstruction which have as their objective the amelioration of the material prosperity and moral progress of the people and the elevation of the standard of living of the masses by improving the economic resources of the province and, therefore, stand in need of all the money that they can get to carry their policies into effect. At the same time, it is intended also as a measure of making the bigger and more substantial landlords, whose net income from land exceeds Rs. 5,000, contribute in an equitable manner to the revenues of the State in the same way as those earning incomes above a certain sum in industry, business or other occupation are made to contribute to the public exchequer through the levy of the income-tax. There is thus nothing offensive in the provisions of the draft Bill to the canon of equity and it inheres its own defence and justification *vis-a-vis* the other accepted canons of taxation.

## Other Provinces Have It

Nor is Madras the first or the only province where this kind of tax is proposed to be levied. Other provinces like Bengal, Bihar and Assam have already got the tax as also some Indian States like Travancore. Land tenure systems and other conditions in these provinces and States may differ from those prevailing in Madras in some respects; but the essential principles governing the imposition of the tax in those provinces and in Madras, as proposed, do not differ very much. The fundamental principles on which the Madras Government's draft Bill has been formulated are more or less the same as those on which similar taxation measures had been formulated in Bihar or Bengal. That is to say, there is an initial exemption limit; there is the principle of progression in the rates of the tax proposed *pari-passu* with the rise in income; there is the principle of allowance for essential agricultural operations involved in the earning of the income from land and capital expenditure incurred on improvements in it. The smaller ryot or landlord whose net income is not more than Rs. 5,000 will be excluded from the scope of the taxation, while even in the case of those whose income exceeds that figure, there is an initial tax-free limit up to Rs. 1,500. So long as the tax is progressive and so long as the principle of equity is not offended against, and the principle of ability to pay is taken into account, any measure of taxation, the proceeds of which are proposed to be utilized for the benefit of the community as a whole, cannot be legitimately considered as unjustified.

## Some Criticisms Answered

In press articles on the measure, it has generally been agreed that the claim of the Government to levy a tax on agricultural incomes should be conceded. It is also agreed that the Bill for the levy of Agricultural Income-tax has endeavoured to respect the maxim of ability to pay by accepting the principle of progression. Among points of criticism, however, are that in the interests of equity, the Bill should reduce the land revenue system as a whole to an agricultural income-tax basis applicable to all ryots irrespective of the size of the income of their holdings, with suitable exemptions for the poorer ryots and that the tax should be in lieu of land revenue. The reform suggested is in a way *ultra vires* of the present Bill and is inter-related to the larger and comprehensive issue of reform of land tenures and the connected problems of reform or abolition of the Zamindari system. The present Bill's scope is admittedly more limited and restricted. There is nothing to prevent the Government from considering the question of exemption of poorer ryots from payment of tax or similar relief when the larger question of dealing with the Zamindari system as a whole is taken up as is proposed to be done.

Reference has been made in connexion with this matter to the report of Dr. B. V. Narayanaswami Nayudu, who enquired into the rural indebtedness problem in the province. Dr. Narayanaswami Nayudu, it may be noted, has specifically recommended in his report the levy of a progressive agricultural income-tax on all agricultural incomes above Rs. 3,000 and commended it on the ground that "it is bound to be a very fruitful source of revenue especially when zamindaris are abolished." Incidentally, he pointed out, it will also make the land revenue system elastic which it is not to-day. He no doubt coupled it with a recommendation that an exemption from land revenue collection must be permitted to all ryots owning lands smaller in size than the economic holdings. Investigation into this matter is a complicated process and will inevitably involve elaborate district-war enquiries and Dr. Nayudu has himself

(*Continued on page 15*)

# Madras Government Press Notes

## Voluntary Surrender of Foodstuffs

In response to the appeal of the Hon'ble Member for Food and Agriculture in the Interim Government over the All-India Radio, in the last week of September, a large number of letters, telegrams and messages from individuals and organized groups of people have been received by the Hon'ble Member offering to surrender or stating they have surrendered some of their ration for the sake of those in distress. The Government of India desire that facilities for such voluntary surrenders should be given, that they should be taken advantage of in augmenting supplies and that arrangements should be made to see that the same are properly utilized and not allowed to go into the black-market. The Government of Madras agree with the Government of India that opportunities should be given to philanthropic gentlemen who are desirous of doing so to surrender the whole or a part of their ration or to sell a part of the foodgrains kept for their personal consumption and that arrangements should be made to see that these offers are properly utilized and do not go into the black-market. In fact, though the rice situation in the province has somewhat eased, it is still giving anxiety and the Government of Madras would appeal to all those who can do so to make such voluntary offers. The following instructions are issued for the pupose :—

(1) People who desire to surrender the whole or a part of their ration are requested to convey their desire to the Rationing Officer concerned in writing if they are living in statutorily rationed areas or to the Taluk Supply Officer concerned if they are residing in non-statutorily rationed areas.

(2) On receipt of such applications, the Rationing Officer or the Taluk Supply Officer, as the case may be, will enter the particulars and the quantity offered to be surrendered in a special register kept for the pupose. He will call for the ration card of the individual concerned and make the necessary corrections therein. At the same time he will issue instructions to the retail shopkeeper with whom the ration card is registered to allow ration only at the reduced scale. The individuals who surrender their ration should thereafter draw their ration only at the reduced scale. They are requested to satisfy themselves that in the receipts given to them by the retail shop-keepers only the reduced quantity actually drawn by them is entered.

(3) Where a producer or a ration card-holder is willing to sell a part of his ration kept for his own personal consumption, he is requested to convey his desire to the Rationing Officer if he is in a statutorily rationed area or to the Taluk Supply Officer if he is living in a non-statutorily rationed area. On receipt of the application, the Rationing Officer, or the Taluk Supply Officer, as the case may be, will enter the particulars in a separate register kept for the purpose and make necessary arrangements for the purchase of the quantity surrendered by the applicants.

[December 18, 1946]

## Purchase of Bread Ration

With effect from 15th December 1946, the rice content of the ration was raised from 8 ounces to 10 ounces and orders were issued that card-holders can purchase the balance of two ounces as wheat or maize in alternate weeks, i.e., a person can purchase wheat in a week but only maize in the second week. There seems to be some misapprehension regarding the applicability of this order to bread. Sale in alternate weeks does not apply to bread. Persons who desire to buy bread can purchase it every week.

[December 20, 1946]

## Relief Measures in South Arcot

The Collector and Special Officer, District Board, South Arcot, has reported to the Government that heavy damages have been caused to roads, bridges and culverts by the heavy rains and flood which occurred on the 15th and the 16th of November and from the 2nd to the 4th of December and the 6th to the 8th of December 1946. The Divisional Engineer, Cuddalore, has reported that breaches occurred in several places in the Vikravandi Lower Anicut Road, Sholatheram-Srimushnam Road and Keerapalayam-Shetiatope Road. In a further report, dated 8th December, the Divisional Engineer states that extensive damages and breaches have occurred on many district board roads in the district. The Divisional Engineer was to close the breaches on the important roads temporarily with the existing engineering staff and restore single-line traffic. But as it was considered not desirable to be content with the single-line traffic, he was asked to take urgent steps to restore the usual width of the roads. Estimates submitted by him, amounting to nearly Rs. 44,000 for repairing the flood damages on the second and third-class and village roads in Cuddalore, Chidambaram and Vridhachalam taluks, have

been sanctioned in anticipation of the Board's approval in view of the urgency.

The Collector's report further states that the Divisional Engineer, Salem, has reported that among the roads affected during the recent floods in Kallakurichi taluk of this district are Kallakurichi-Sankarapuram Road and Kallakurichi-Kuthakoodi Road.

The recent floods have again caused heavy damages to roads, bridges and culverts, the restoration of which to their original condition has imposed an additional burden on the finances of the District Board to the extent of nearly Rs. 1,25,000 in all the eight taluks of the districts. The Collector has recommended an allotment of 50 per cent of the expenditure at least on the second, third and other classes of roads, without which they cannot be restored immediately.

[December 20, 1946]

## Consumers' Co-operative Societies

The Government have received representations and have also perused comments in papers about the scheme of producers' cum consumers' co-operative societies now being organized in the four Circar Districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur. Some of the criticisms against the scheme appear to be rather propagandist in character, calculated to create doubt and uncertainty in the public mind and thereby dissuade the public from joining the societies.

The aim of the Government, as has already been stated, is to create a socio-economic fabric based on the Co-operative principle in as high a degree as possible, so as to enable the society to have the production and distribution of its essential needs planned and worked out in the interests of the people by the people themselves and by this means eliminate or minimize the chances of private profiteering and exploitation, hoarding, black-marketing and corruption. This necessarily entrenches on certain existing institutions and individuals; the Government do not want to injure anyone but would suggest that such institutions and individuals should readjust themselves so as to fit into the new fabric, as the new one covers the entire population of the area and the benefits are evenly divided among all as compared with the limited values and circumscribed scope of the existing ones.

Lest there be any doubt in the matter, Government want to make it clear that it is their firm intention to complete the formation of the societies and entrust the procurement work to them commencing with the procurement of the main crop now under harvest in these districts. As already announced, the ultimate intention is to retain these societies as a permanent feature and to convert them into multi-purpose societies. The public need not therefore apprehend that these societies will be ephemeral in character and will be wound up after the present food emergency ceases to exist.

One of the points of criticism is that the share capital of 4 lakhs of rupees for each society for the procurement of 5,000 tons of paddy is excessive and would lead to over-capitalization and ultimately loss to shareholders. The share capital has been fixed after due consideration and an examination of the working capital required by the societies formed in Malabar. It is not possible or safe to reduce the share capital still further, as the borrowing capacity of the societies will depend upon the subscribed share capital and, if the share capital is kept at a low figure, their scope for borrowing will be correspondingly limited. Further, the lending capacity of the co-operative banks in the four districts cannot meet the huge capital required by the societies for the procurement work and it is therefore necessary that the share capital of the societies should be as high as possible.

It is stated that, as this is the time of harvest, no ready money will be available with poor ryots to buy shares and that therefore the share capital cannot be completely collected and that they can only be collected from capitalists who will thus secure a hold over these societies. Neither of these fears has any basis in fact because the officers organizing these societies have insisted on payment in money of only one-fourth the share value which a producer intends to take and have allowed him to pay the value of the remaining three-fourths in grain before the 31st of January, 1947. This concession is ample to meet any genuine difficulty which may be experienced by prospective shareholders. Capitalists cannot monopolize all these societies as the maximum share capital which can be invested by a person has been limited to Rs. 2,500.

It has been suggested that the minimum share capital which is now Rs. 25 should be reduced. As the Circar Districts are a surplus producing area and the general prosperity of ryots there is higher than in other parts of the province, the amount of Rs. 25 is not too high.

The public are informed that the millers are also taking shares in the societies and the millers as a class are not opposed to the scheme. The scheme in general is intended to benefit the public at large and it is inevitable that some of the mercantile community will be affected to a certain extent.

But if they co-operate with the scheme and make it a success, they will also ultimately benefit from the scheme. They are therefore desired to join the societies and work for their success.

The Government intend to notify the societies as procurement agents, as soon as they are formed. The societies are therefore ensured of business. The Government have under consideration the question of fixing the prices which should be paid to the producers and for export to the deficit districts. It is not their intention to allow any general increase in prices during the year except for some adjustments that may be found necessary.

Government would like to impress upon all producers that they will be deriving a double advantage by joining as shareholders in the new societies. While a non-member producer can get profit only out of a single transaction of the sale of his paddy to the society, the member producer will earn a double profit once in his sale to the society and again on export of the paddy by the society to other districts, as he will share in the profits of the society.

It has been suggested that Government should guarantee the societies against losses. Government cannot possibly do this unless they themselves join as shareholders and get elected to the directorate of the societies which they have no intention of doing as the societies are intended to be purely non-official in character. The question of loss scarcely arises as the entire business is entrusted to the organizations and the Government are at the back of them; and as it is the hope that all producers and most of the consumers will join, it will be a common and joint enterprise; loss can arise only if shareholders do not act up to the ideal of co-operation. The Government believes there is sufficient co-operative enthusiasm as also business talent in the citizens and the chances of losses are less than the chances of gains. Short of guaranteeing against loss, the Government will take all necessary steps to see that the societies work on proper lines.

Some point is sought to be made that pressure is being used by officials for collection of share capital; the Government would make it clear that this is a scheme for the people to be run by the people themselves, and none would be more glad than they if the non-official organizations themselves could immediately take up the work; when that is not so, it is wrong to think that compulsion is being used. At the same time the Government would make it clear that, in order to achieve the full co-operative ideal, all the people must join; no family unit can afford to keep itself out.

The public will now readily understand that the new societies will be wider in scope and confer greater benefits on a larger section of the public than the existing co-operative marketing or other limited purpose societies. In view of the Government's intention to entrust procurement and export of foodgrains to the new societies immediately after their formation and convert them into multi-purpose societies in due course, it will be advisable for existing societies to merge themselves in the new organization.

[December 23, 1946]

## Representations of Commission Agents

At a Merchants' Conference held recently at Calicut, it was stated that the Government had summarily rejected the widespread complaints, representations, etc., submitted on behalf of the commission agents of this Province against their assessment to sales tax and a request was made that a fresh investigation of the complaints should be ordered, says a Revenue Department Press Note, dated January 18, 1947.

The Government have examined the representations carefully. Section 8 of the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939, provides for the exemption from sales tax of the type of commission agent who is not a dealer but who acts on a reasonable margin of commission for a principal in effecting a sale or purchase, the margin of profit being so small as not to admit of payment of tax even at the original rate of ½ per cent. The main conditions that are to be satisfied by a commission agent before he can claim exemption from tax are—

(1) the principals on whose behalf he buys or sells should be known principals;

(2) the principal should pay only a fixed commission previously agreed upon to the agent;

(3) the full sale or purchase value of the goods bought or sold by the agent should be reported to the principal who should include it in his turnover and pay tax on it, if he is not otherwise exempt from tax;

(4) separate accounts should be kept for the commission business and the business as a dealer in cases where the same person acts both as a dealer and as a commission agent; and

(5) the commission agent should take out a licence under section 8 of the Act.

The Special Officer for Commercial Taxes examined the points raised in the various petitions with reference to the facts in more than 50 cases

selected at random at the places to which the petitions related. His investigation showed that the nature of the business transacted by the so-called commission agents was not such as would entitle them to exemption under the provisions of section 8 of the Act and the conditions of the licence granted under that section, and that the transactions were not genuine agency transactions.

The commonest and most serious irregularity noticed was the failure to report to the principal the full price obtained on the sale of his goods. In most cases the selling agent made some extra collections from the buyers besides the commission got from the selling principal. The actual sale value in such cases includes those extra charges and only if they are reported to the principal and included by him in his turnover and tax is paid thereon by him can the transaction be exempt from tax under section 8.

If the full purchase or sale value is not included in the principal's turnover, the amounts omitted will escape taxation and this will result in loss of revenue due under the Act.

In another case a dealer who claimed to act as a selling agent did not give the principals full credit for the quantities sold by him. He charged the buyer for ½ seer per maund more than the weight of the goods sold and paid the principals for the weight of the goods sold less ½ seer per maund and thereby earned a profit which he credited to the account of a fictitious person. Another dealer bought and sold goods on his own account and on behalf of principals but did not maintain separate accounts for the two kinds of business and was therefore ineligible for exemption from tax. In some other cases the principals on whose behalf goods were sold could not be traced. In several cases the so-called commission agents claimed exemption under section 8 but themselves collected sales tax from the customers. Cases like the above in which the accounts of the petitioners which have been carefully gone into by the Special Officer were so many that Government were satisfied that there was no general illegality or injustice in the assessments complained against.

The assessments are made in accordance with the provisions of a statute and if in individual cases the assessees still wish to dispute their validity they can do so by the usual procedure of appeal and revision specifically provided in the Act. An assessee who still disputes his liability to be taxed under the Act, has his remedy by suit as permitted under it. The Government do not herefore propose ordering a fresh enquiry into the complaints made regarding the assessments in question or appointing a tribunal for it. They do not also propose to stay the collection of the tax.

## Development of Cottage Industries

In pursuance of the announcement by the Hon'ble Premier at a meeting of the Legislative Assembly in September 1946, that steps will be taken to develop cottage and village industries on intensive lines as a part of the Firka Development Scheme, the Director of Industries and Commerce formulated a scheme for the consideration of the Government. The main features of the scheme are—

(1) Opening of demonstration and training units.

(2) Re-organization of industrial and commercial museums.

(3) Provision of financial assistance to cottage industrialists.

### Demonstration and Training Units

Of the 35 industries selected by the Director of Industries and Commerce, the Government have directed that demonstration and training units be started in respect of 32 industries in the 25 districts of the Province. Among the 32 industries thus selected are: blacksmithy, woodwork, pottery, handloom weaving, soap-making, toys and lacquer work, manufacture of suitcases, trunks and buckets, fish-net making, cumbly weaving, fish curing, palm jaggery manufacture, stone cutting, lime burning, rattan and bamboo work, manufacture of hand-made paper, dying and printing, distillation of essential oils, kora mat weaving, light metal casting and boat building.

In working the demonstration and training units, the Government have asked the Director of Industries and Commerce to arrange to convert certain of these industries to more utilitarian trades such as employing goldsmiths on clock and watch manufacture instead of on the production of common jewellery; switching over of bell-metal casting to the manufacture of water-pumping sets and directing the manufacturers of steel trunks to pressing iron sheets and producing enamel-ware. The Director of Industries and Commerce will award stipends to 50 per cent of the number of trainees in each of the units. He will also distribute as bonus among the trainees 25 per cent of the recoveries effected by the sale of articles produced in the respective units. Steps will be taken to supplement the number

of stipends available to the trainees for enlisting local support for donations, contributions, etc.

The Government have sanctioned the employment of the necessary staff in the demonstration and training units. The Government have also sanctioned the expenditure on raw materials and have approved provisionally the lump-sum estimate of Rs. 6 lakhs for the construction of sheds and Rs. 8,56,580 for the equipment required for the scheme. The proposal of the Director of Industries to incur an annual expenditure not exceeding Rs. 1,09,772 on the provision of midday meals to the trainees at a cost of two to three annas per meal is also approved by the Government.

The Government consider that wherever possible, the existing demonstration and training units in respect of several cottage industries should be merged with the proposed units under the Firka Development Scheme.

The Government have also under consideration a proposal for the re-organization of the industrial and commercial museums.

The Director of Industries and Commerce had suggested that a sum of Rs. 5,000 be provided for each firka for payment of subsidy, loans, etc., for development of cottage industries by persons who had received training at the training centres or for payment of scholarships to persons for further training, that another sum of Rs. 5,000 will be required for purchase of raw materials required by cottage industrialists in each of the firkas and that a further sum of Rs. 10,000 is necessary for general development work on cottage industries in the district as a whole, as apart from the selected firkas. The Government consider that it is essential to provide for the "follow up" of the work in the training units and therefore direct that a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs per annum be placed at the disposal of the Director of Industries to meet the expenditure on the several items indicated above.

The Government have included two more firkas in the Agency tracts under the Firka Development Scheme.

[January 6, 1947]

## Flood Relief Measures

The following details of damages due to floods and relief measures undertaken by the local officials are issued by the Director of Information and Publicity :—

In continuation of his reports, dated 8th and 9th of December, 1946, on the flood damages in Nellore district, the Collector of Nellore has sent a further report to the Government on the 11th of December, 1946, in the course of which he says that the floods in the Warnamuki and the Pennar rivers are receding and that conditions are rapidly returning to normal.

Referring to damage of life and property, the Collector says that reports received so far show that 13 persons were killed during the floods. This number includes the casualties referred to in the previous report. Eight workers were drowned in the Pattabhirama Mica Mine near Gudur while they were working in that mine. The Inspector from Dhanbad has come to Gudur to hold a regular enquiry into the causes of the accident, and proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Act are being taken and the dependants of the deceased persons duly compensated according to the rules. About 900 cattle are reported to have been washed away by the floods in Sydapuram. About 1,500 huts have either collapsed or badly damaged in Gudur division and 1,000 huts in Nellore and Kovur taluks. No damage has been reported from the rest of the district.

So far as crops are concerned, the Collector's report says that there has been no serious damage to the standing paddy crop in the delta taluks of Nellore and Kovur, but damage to the paddy crop in Gudur and Sullurpet taluks, particularly in Kota, Yellasiri and Mallam firkas has been considerable. It is roughly estimated that at least 1,000 acres were damaged in Kothapalem village as a result of inundation by a breach in the Challa Kalva. Reports so far received indicate that the paddy crop on another 15,000 acres will yield much below normal owing to the crops being submerged for several days. As regards the dry crops, cholam has suffered most. Large tracts of land are still lying waste without cholam being sown, as the ground has been slushy during the last one month. The upland taluks of the district being mostly a cholam producing area, it is apprehended, says the report, that there will be a deficit in the production of millets this year.

Referring to damage to irrigation sources, the Collector's report says that all the reservoirs of the district are in tact. From the reports received from local officers it is learnt that the Boggeru Anicut near Atmakur and the anicut in Swarnamukhi near Gudur have been badly breached. It is stated that several P.W.D. minor irrigation and estate tanks in Rapur, Gudur, Sullurpet, Nellore, Atmakur and Venkatagiri taluks have been seriously damaged.

As regards damage to roads and communications, the report states that there have been several breaches between Manubole and Gudur and all bus, lorry and cart traffic has had to be entirely suspended for some days. Every effort is being

made to repair the breaches and it is expected that through communications would be restored shortly. The District Board roads between Nellore, Sydapuram and Podalkur and between Venkatagiri and Sullurpet and between Gudur and Kota have been badly breached.

The following relief measures are reported by the Collector to have been taken :—

Except in Nellore and Gudur towns, where free feeding had to be arranged at Government expense, the response from the public has been splendid in Kovur, Naidupet, Sullurpet, Venkatagiri, Kota and other villages. Out of Rs. 2,000 originally sanctioned for immediate relief, Rs. 500 has been allotted to Kovur taluk, Rs. 500 to Nellore taluk and Rs. 1,000 to Gudur taluk. Another amount of Rs. 500 to Nellore taluk and Rs. 2,500 to Gudur division have been allotted as a second allotment out of Rs. 3,000 sanctioned by Government. For the reconstruction of houses, free grant of trees and palmyrah leaves from the Government porambokes, wherever they are available, is being sanctioned. Where Government poramboke trees are not easily available, arrangements are being made to purchase materials and distribute them among the poor. About 200 surplus army, coarse used woollen blankets from the wholesale Co-operative Stores, Nellore, were purchased for distribution among the poor who have been rendered homeless. About 500 new blankets have been purchased locally by the Sub-Collector of Gudur, who has distributed them to some of the worst affected villages in Kota firka. Distribution of some quantity of mill cloth has also been arranged in consultation with the taluk and village committees. Relief operations for the reconstruction of houses have started in right earnest in Nellore amd Kovur and Sullurpet taluks. It is expected that the entire work will be finished by the 25th December 1946.

Anti-cholera inoculations are being conducted in Gudur taluk which is the worst affected area. Arrangements have also been made to render medical aid in the interior villages in case fevers or influenza should break out in an epidemic form. So far, the public health in all the villages has been well maintained. Water supply which broke down on the 7th of December in Nellore town was resumed from the 9th. There has been a breakdown of water supply in Gudur town on account of damages caused to a pumping engine, which are being urgently repaired.

It may be noted in this connexion that the Government have sanctioned a further allotment of Rs. 7,000 for immediate relief and for purchases of building materials to the flood-affected people in the Nellore district.

[December 20, 1946]



## Reorganization of the Textile Department

After a comprehensive review of the present position in regard to the distribution of cotton cloth and yarn, the Government have decided to reorganize the administration of the Textile Control Department on the following lines :—

The Government consider that in order to secure the efficient working of the new scheme of distribution of cloth and yarn with the assistance of local committees, it is necessary that the Collectors should be made fully responsible for all items of textile control work which can be done on a district basis. It has therefore been decided to allot the following items of work to the Collectors:—

(i) all licensing ;

(ii) enforcement of all textile control measures ; and

(iii) distribution in consultation with the District, Taluk, Town and Village Committees of the district quotas of cloth and yarn.

2. The Provincial Textile Commissioner's functions will be limited to—

(i) Khadi Scheme ;

(ii) co-ordination of the textile control work of the Collectors so as to secure the uniform application of the principles and policies laid down by the Government ; and

(iii) all items of textile control work which must necessarily be done on a provincial basis, such as regulation of exports, control of mills, deliveries of the district quotas, etc.

The above arrangements will come into force in each district with effect from the date on which the Inspecting Assistant Textile Commissioner appointed for the district enters on his duties. The dates will be notified by the Provincial Textile Commissioner and the Collector concerned.

3. The Government have decided that the licences issued to cloth and yarn dealers in this Presidency should be overhauled with reference to the following principles :—

(1) Suitable existing co-operative organizations which are willing to undertake the distribution of cloth or yarn should be utilized fully.

(2) To facilitate effective control and minimise the temptations to indulge in black-marketing and other malpractices, it is necessary to reduce the present excessive number of dealers, particularly in the category of retailers in mill cloth. No dealer should be allowed to continue in business if it is clear that, having regard to the location of his shop, the area served by it and the monthly quota of cloth which he can expect to receive, he cannot earn an adequate net profit.

(3) The location of shops should be so fixed, and new shops opened, that all areas in the district, including interior and remote villages, will be conveniently served.

(4) Some shops, should, wherever possible, be located in Harijan quarters, Harijans being made the licensees in respect of such shops.

The existing rules regarding the basic period and other licensing restrictions will not be allowed to stand in the way of implementing the principles set out above. The Collectors of the districts will, after consultation with the District Committees, submit for the approval of the Government, a scheme indicating the lines on which the licences issued to cloth and yarn dealers in their districts should be overhauled. The Collector will, in consultation with the District Committee, decide on the persons to be licensed to deal in yarn and cloth. The Taluk, Town and Village Committees will be consulted before the selection is made.

The Government have ordered that, pending the overhauling of the licences as indicated above, no fresh licences of any kind should be issued either for cloth or for yarn without the special sanction of the Government.

4. The Government have also decided to distribute mill cloth in Malabar district exclusively through the Producers *cum* Consumers' Co-operative societies recently set up in the district in connection with the procurement and distribution of food articles.

[December 20, 1946]

## Scientific Terms in the Vernaculars

The Government constituted in G.O. No. 1051, Education, dated the 8th June 1940, a committee with the object of preparing a proper and commonly accepted vocabulary of scientific and technical terms in the languages of the Province for adoption in text-books in the subjects. The Committee has made its final recommendations with lists of technical terms prepared by the special language committees appointed to facilitate the work.

The Government approve the lists of technical terms in Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and Urdu for the subjects of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Natural Science, Physiology and Hygiene, History, Economics, Administration, Politics and Civics, Geography (except in Urdu language) and Commerce.

The Chairman, Technical Terms Committee, is requested to send the list in Urdu for Geography at an early date.

As regards Tamil, two lists A and B of technical terms have been forwarded to Government. On a consideration of both the lists, the Government have prepared another list C in which the most acceptable terms in A and B have been incorporated. The Government order that the list C may be adopted for technical terms in Tamil.

The Government agree with the recommendations of the Committee—

(*a*) that for the next five years, the practice may be adopted of using wherever necessary the English technical terms side by side with their equivalents in the Indian languages by printing (1) in Roman script and within brackets the English terms after the Indian equivalent on its first occurrence and (2) the Indian language terms with their English equivalents in a glossary at the end of every text book;

(*b*) that the list of terms should be subject to revision and modification at the end of five years and that criticisms and suggestions offered by teachers and authors may be received by the Secretary, Text-book Committee, and action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Director of Public Instruction.

The approved terms should come into existence in actual practice in schools from the next school year, i.e., 1947–48; and in text-books from 1948–49, i.e., only text-books which are using these terms should be recognized by the Text-Book Committee for that year.

The Director of Public Instruction has been requested to issue necessary instructions on the lines of Recommendation (5) of the Technical Terms Committee and also to make necessary arrangements with Superintendent, Government Press, to publish the technical terms immediately, before the commencement of the next school year.

The Government would like to convey to the Chairman and Members of the Committee their thanks for the very valuable work done by them.

[January 27, 1947]

## Registration of Jeeps

It has been brought to the notice of the Government that jeeps purchased by civilians in Military auctions are being used on the public roads without fresh registration under the Motor Vehicles Act. Government wish to inform those concerned that under Section 39 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, the Military registration of such vehicles ceases to be in force on the transfer of their ownership from the Central Government and that it is an offence to use the vehicles on public roads without fresh registration under the Motor Vehicles Act.

[January 28, 1947]

## Conditions in Anantapur and Bellary

There was good and widespread rainfall in both the districts during the month, the average rainfall being 4·3″ in Anantapur and 4·0″ in Bellary. In both the districts, all the irrigation sources received adequate supplies for raising wet crops under them. Harvesting of mungari crops too is in progress. The cultivation of hingari crops was almost over in Bellary by the end of the month.

The Commissioner of Land Revenue and Irrigation toured in the districts during the latter half of October 1946 and noticed that the seasonal conditions were steadily improving. Of the 25 road works that were functioning at the end of October 1946 in Anantapur, 16 works were closed by 9th November 1946, 7 works were closed on 15th November 1946 and the remaining two were closed on 30th November 1946. In Bellary all the expansion works had been closed by the end of October 1946 itself. There were no works in progress during November. The average number relieved on the works in Anantapur was 14·39 on 15th November 1946 and 221 on 30th November 1946. All the well works were transferred to the Rural Water-Supply scheme during the latter half of the month.

Distribution of gratuitous relief both in the shape of grain and cash was discontinued from 23rd November 1946 in Anantapur, and from 16th November 1946 in Bellary except in 9 villages in Alur taluk in Bellary district where conditions were not quite satisfactory. In respect of the 9 villages it was continued till the end of November. The average number relieved under this head in Anantapur on 23rd November 1946 was 10,866 and that in Bellary on 16th November 1946 was 977. The recent harvest in the districts are likely to result in a good supply of grain.

Pasture became available in both the districts as a result of the rains. There was no demand for hill grass stocked in the depots in Bellary, much less for paddy straw. In Anantapur 29 tons of hill grass were sold during the month. The question of disposing of the balance of stock is under consideration.

### Food Situation

*Anantapur*.—The general food position in the district during the month was satisfactory. There were ample stocks of all principal foodgrains except rice. The stock position of rice, too, was expected to improve with the receipt of the allotted quotas. As a result of the recent harvest, procurement of dry grains has started and the stock position of millets in the district has improved considerably.

*Bellary*.—Although incessant rains slightly affected the mungari korra crop in Bellary taluk, the condition of the food crops in the district as a whole and the outturn of the harvested crops were generally fair. The stocks of millets in the district were expected to last for five months. The district has, however, only three weeks stocks of rice. The stocks of other foodgrains were satisfactory.

[December 23, 1946]

## Increased Scales for L.I.M.

The Government have decided that subject to further consideration by the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee, *A* and *B* class practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine employed by local bodies in regular dispensaries may be granted the scale of pay of Rs. 80—5—150 as against the existing scale ranging from Rs. 40—85, provided the finances of the local bodies permit the grant of this increased scale of pay. The financial position of each local body will be scrutinized before the scale is put into operation.

Licentiates in Indian Systems of Medicine (L.I.Ms.) and in Modern Systems of Medicine (L.M.Ps.) in charge of rural (Subsidized) dispensaries will hereafter be granted a subsidy of Rs. 600 per annum as against the existing rate of Rs. 500 per annum.

The question of powers of L.I.Ms. to grant medical certificates and of registration of practitioners of Indian Medicine under the Madras Medical Registration Act is under the consideration of the Government.

[January 25, 1947]

## Admission to colleges

The Government have been receiving many representations asking them to interfere in the matter of selections in schools and colleges. The Government want to make it clear that it is entirely a matter for the headmasters and principals of the college and that they cannot interfere in the matter. While the Government will discountenance mass detentions and steps have been taken to avoid them, the Government must also discountenance the agitation that is being carried on in this matter. The Government will always be prepared to consider educational matters in their proper place. But they desire to state that strikes are not the ways in which these matters can be settled.

[January 25, 1947]

## Supply of Reconstituted Milk

The Madras Government Milk Factory will shortly supply Reconstituted Milk prepared out of separated milk powder with vegetable fat and vitamins "A" and "D" added to it. The reconstituted milk is nutritionally as good as ordinary fresh milk and can be used both for children and adults. Distribution will be made through the branches of the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society, during morning and evening hours every day at the following places:—

Thyagarayanagar, Nungambakkam, Teynampet, Mylapore, Royapettah and Chepauk.

The exact date when supply will begin will be notified in the press in due course and it is hoped that it will be early in January. Members of the public wishing to obtain this milk should register with one of the branches in the above areas when they will be given coupons for a month's supply. These coupons will entitle the holder to a guaranteed supply of milk (on payment at the time of purchase or on deposit arrangement with the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society) provided delivery is taken before a certain hour in the day. At first supply will be made either in sealed pint bottles or from sealed cans directly into the customers' receptacle. In the case of supply of bottles a small deposit against the return of the bottles will be required. The supply of bottles is limited at present but a large supply is expected to be received during 1947. Bottle supply up to the quantity of bottles available will be given to applicants in the order of registrations for it. It would be helpful if persons who wish to take this milk would make a provisional registration now with the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society branch of their choice for either bottled or unbottled supply.

The price of the milk will be Re. 0–1–6 per ollock for supply into customers' own vessel or Re. 0–4–0 per sealed pint bottle containing 2½ ollcoks of milk.

[December 23, 1946]

## No Special Cloth Ration

As the mill cloth rationing scheme has already been introduced in Madras City from 1st January 1947 and will be introduced shortly in the mofussil areas also, no special rations of mill cloth will hereafter be issued to any particular community in connexion with any of its festivals.

[January 9, 1947]

## The Case of Labourers, who are paid in kind

The Government have received representation that the labourers who get their wages in kind are unable to take the grain to their own villages on account of the existence of inter-village or inter-taluk bans against the movement of food-grains and that they are also unable to sell the grain in the villages in which they receive the wages and get cash for purchasing their other requirements. The Government have now instructed the Collectors of districts where such bans exist to make adequate arrangements for the purchase of the wages received by labourers in kind in the village in which they obtain them. The labourers can thus sell the grain which they get as wages and which they are unable to move to their own villages, on account of the existence of the ban, to the procurement agent of the village in which they get their wages. In the alternative they may obtain permits from the village officer for the removal of grain to their villages where they can sell to the procurement agents concerned.

[January 11, 1947]

## Defence Services Welfare Fund

In a Press Note issued on 15th November 1946 it was announced that the Provincial War Committee and its Sub-Committees had been dissolved and that His Excellency the Governor's Amenities and Relief Fund has been wound up. It was announced in that Press Note that the balance remaining in the Fund is to be reconstituted as "The Madras Defence Services Welfare Fund" which will be administered by a Committee set up for this purpose. The balance is now estimated to be more than Rs. 8 lakhs. The Fund is intended mainly for the welfare of Indian Defence Services personnel and ex-servicemen, and their families. In addition a sum of Rs. 13,000 has been set apart for the relief of evacuees.

Applications for contributions from the Fund for the purposes mentioned above will be considered from recognized organizations and committees. It is not intended to disburse these funds to individual applications. Applications from individual ex-servicemen or their families cannot be considered but should be sent as hitherto to the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards.

All applications should be sent so as to reach the Secretary of the Committe—Mr. P. Govindan Nair, I.C.S., C/o Public Department, Secretariat, Fort St. George—not later than the 1st March 1947. No applications will be considered after that date.

[January 4, 1947]

## Agriculturists' Relief

The number of cases under the Agriculturists' Relief Act disposed of by civil courts in the province for the quarter ending 30th September 1946 is 507. For the period between 22nd March 1938 (when the Act came into force) and 30th September 1946 (covering 103 months) the number of cases disposed of is 206,177.

The amount involved in application disposed of under sections 8, 9, 13, 19, 19-A and 21 of the Act for the quarter ending 30th September 1946 is Rs. 3,86,059. The amount involved in such applications for the preiod between 22nd March 1938 and 30th September 1946 stands at Rs. 9,69,47,527.

The amount scaled down by the courts on applications of indebted agriculturists for the quarter ending 30th September 1946 is Rs.1,99,602. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th September 1946, the amount scaled down stands at Rs. 4,65,05,338.

The amount of reduction by scaling down of debts for the quarter ending 30th September 1946 is Rs. 1,86,457. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th September 1946 the amount of reduction by scaling down debts is Rs. 5,04,42,189.

The number of cases pending at the close of the quarter ending 30th September 1946 and that for the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th September 1946 is 424.

The figures given above exclude the number of cases voluntarily settled by parties without recourse to courts.

**[January 4, 1947]**

## Adulteration of Milk

The adulteration of milk offered for sale is becoming too common, and the Government have decided that it should be put down with vigour. Such adulteration is an offence under the Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act and the rules made thereunder. There appears to be a mistaken impression that the sale of hot milk adulterated with water or otherwise is not an offence, and that only adulteration of raw milk is punishable. This is incorrect. The High Court has held recently in Criminal Appeal No. 268 of 1946, Public Prosecutor *vs.* Modi Kondayya [(1946) II M.L.J., 311] that any act, either of addition or abstraction, that diminishes the prescribed percentage of milk fat and milk solids is an offence, that hot milk is only milk in its natural condition that has been made hot, and that it should not be treated as different from milk in the ordinary sense.

[December 20, 1946]

## Public Safety Ordinance

In regard to the Ordinance promulgated on the 23rd instant, it has been suggested that the Government could have given reasons for such promulgation. While the Government appreciate the helpful manner in which the publication of the Ordinance had been received by the Press and also by the public, the Government wish to point out that it was not possible to state reasons in advance because of the steps contemplated to be taken by the Government close upon promulgation. The Government had forborne for long and had given full freedom in the press and on the platform even to those who were bent upon creating disorder all over the province. It was only when the violent activities of certain groups reached a climax that it was decided to promulgate the Ordinance and take immediate steps to put a stop to the activities of certain organizations and individuals. When the Assembly meets on the 30th instant, the Members of the House and the public will be taken into confidence and a full statement will be made.

[January 27, 1947]

## Tenders for Groundnut Oil Supply

The Deputy Commissioner of Civil Supplies for Exports is passing orders on the tenders received for the supply of groundnut oil excluding the cost of the containers because the tenders have not furnished sufficient details of the containers offered to decide the point. The Inspecting Agent concerned will have the option of accepting the containers offered by the tenderers at the rates quoted by them in their tenders if they are satisfied on inspection with the quality of the containers.

Successful tenderers are requested to deposit in their respective sub-treasuries the surcharge due to Government calculated at ½ per cent on the value of the oil for which the tenders have been accepted and obtain permits for the export of their oil.

[January 15, 1947]

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(*Continued from page* 5.)

stated that the financial loss from exempting all small ryots from the payment of land revenue would be between Rs. 2 and Rs. 2·5 crores. Quite obviously, the Government cannot afford to incur this huge loss immediately without abandoning their other nation-building and ameliorative schemes, though it may be agreed that the ultimate benefit in the shape of increase in revenue owing to better farming methods that is expected to be secured will be substantial.

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# Government Departments at Work

## I Food

In view of the difficult food situation in the Province and as food production and village reconstruction are two pressing problems which require immediate attention, the Government have sanctioned the creation of a post of Development Commissioner in the Food Department for a period of one year. Mr. V. Ramakrishna, C.I.E., I.C.S., has been appointed to this post with effect from 11th December 1946.

During the fortnight under report the scheme of intensive rural reconstruction in selected areas was ordered to be extended to the following seven centres in which the intensive Khadi scheme is to be launched :—

| *Tamil Nad Area.* | *Andhra Area.* |
|---|---|
| 1 Vellakoil. | 4 Tuni (Uratla *cum* Tuni). |
| 2 Avanashi. | 5 Guruvareddipalem. |
| 3 Puliyankurichi. | 6 Erragondapalem. |

*West Coast.*

7. Payyanur *cum* Nileshwar.

The Government have sanctioned a scheme to develop cottage and village industries on intensive lines as a part of the intensive rural reconstruction scheme. The main features of the scheme are—

(i) Opening of demonstration and training units ;

(ii) reorganization of industrial and commercial museums ; and

(iii) provision of financial assistant to cottage industries.

The demonstration and training units are to be started in 25 selected firkas in respect of 32 selected industries. Provision has been made for the award of stipends to 50 per cent of the number of trainees in each of the units and for the distribution as bonus among the trainees of 25 per cent of the recoveries effected by sale of articles produced in the respective units.

As the Government consider it essential to provide for the "follow up" of the work in the training units, they have issued orders directing that a sum of rupees five lakhs per annum be placed at the disposal of the Director of Industries and Commerce to meet the expenditure on account of—

(*a*) Payment of subsidy, loans, etc., for development of cottage industries by persons who had received training at the training centres and for payment of scholarships to persons for further training ;

(*b*) for purchase of raw materials required by cottage industrialists in the selected firkas ; and

(*c*) for general developmental work on cottage industries in the district as a whole as apart from the selected firka or firkas.

## II Education

The Government of Madras appointed a Special Officer in the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, for drafting a report on the replies to the "Questionnaire on the Reorganization of Education" issued by the Hon'ble the Minister for Education. As many as 760 replies were received from the presidents of district boards, commissioners of municipal councils, teachers, teacher-managers and several distinguished persons of different occupations in the Presidency. All the replies were scrutinized and a detailed report with statistics was prepared and submitted to Government for discussion at the meeting of the Provincial Board of Education. The special work will be over by the end of this month.

The Government have created a temporary post of "Inspectress" at the Central Office (i.e., in the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras), Mrs. R. S. Swarnambal, formerly Inspectress of Girls' Schools, IV Circle, Madras, has taken charge of this new post. She deals with papers mostly connected with women's education.

### Basic Education

The Government have sanctioned the opening of a training school at Vinayasramam (at Kavur in Guntur district) to train teachers under the Basic System of Education. The school was opened in December 1946 with 72 students drawn from each of the firkas selected for rural reconstruction work in the Telugu districts. The selected candidates are already trained teachers of the Secondary grade or Higher Elementary grade serving either in the aided or local board schools and they are paid stipends at the rate of Rs. 18 each per mensem while under training, in addition to the pay and dearness allowance which they were drawing while in service. The duration of the training course is one year.

The Government have constituted an Advisory Board of officials and non-officials to advise them on matters relating to Basic Education.

The Government have in view the starting of some more basic training schools in the Province next year. These schools will require to be staffed with men trained in the technique and service of Khadi (among others). The All-India Spinners' Association, Tamil Nad Branch, Tiruppur, is conducting a 11-months' training course in this line, called the Khadi Pravesika Course. In order that trained craftsmen may become available for basic training schools when they are started, ten candidates have been selected for training in this institution at Government cost Rs. 30 for boarding and lodging and Rs. 5 for pocket expenses being given to each trainee per month.

**Increase in Training Grants**

The Government have sanctioned an increase in the rate of teaching grants for teachers of all grades employed in Aided and Panchayat Board elementary schools by Rs. 2 each per month with effect from 1st August 1946.

**Teachers' Provident Fund**

Several modifications to the rules relating to the provident fund scheme for teachers in non-pensionable service have been made with a view to simplifying the procedure for the maintenance and closure of the accounts. An important provision has been made in these rules declaring the scheme compulsory for all permanent certified teachers, according to which a large number of teachers hitherto exercising the option of contributing to the fund are now brought under compulsion. Of no less importance is another provision made in the rules whereby the large bulk of the teachers employed in aided elementary schools on conditions of pay of 85 per cent of assigned grant are also enabled to subscribe to the fund. The rule granting exemptions to teachers from joining the fund has also been made more rigid.

**Boarding Grant**

During the year steps have been taken to liberalize the conditions for the sanction of boarding grant, keeping in view the rise in the cost of living. The upper age limit of boy inmates in all boarding homes has been raised from 16 years to 18 years. The per capita rate of grant for each eligible inmate has also been increased from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 per month.

**Library Grants**

Government have sanctioned for distribution to the Panchayat and other public libraries a grant of Rs. 53,205 and Rs. 34,740 respectively during the current year.

# III Labour

In their Order Ms. No. 4637, Development Department, dated 18th December 1946, the Government of Madras have accepted the award of the Adjudicator, Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya regarding the grant of interim relief to textile workers in the Province.

In their Order Ms. No. 4636, Development Department, dated 18th December 1946, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Sayanai Glass Factory, Madras, regarding the demand of the Union for the cancellation of the notice of discharge of workers due to complaint of supply of soda ash and reinstatement of workers who struck work on 27th November 1946 and increased wages and dearness allowance, etc., to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules. The Adjudicator met the parties on 23rd December 1946 and posted the inquiry to 6th January 1947.

About 300 clerks and menials of Messrs. Parry & Co., Ltd., Madras, struck work on 20th December 1946 demanding increased dearness allowance. The President of the Commercial Employees' Association met the management on 28th December 1946 and urged that menials should be given a dearness allowance of Rs. 26–4–0 per mensem and clerks Rs. 30 per mensem as in the Burmah-Shell, the Standard Vacuum Oil Company, the Caltex, etc. The management declined to increase the present rates of dearness allowance given by them; but promised to introduce new scales of pay for the staff. The Association rejected the management's offer. The Commissioner of Labour, Madras, has recommended to Government that the dispute may be referred to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication under rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules.

The dispute between the workers and the managements of the bus service in Chittoor district was settled amicably at a meeting of the bus owners and representatives of the bus workers held in the presence of the District Magistrate, Chittoor, on 12th December 1946.

One hundred and ninty-nine out of 480 workers of the Brooke Bond (India), Limited, Coimbatore, struck work at 8 a.m. on 9th December 1946 in pursuance of the notice of strike issued on 23rd November 1946 by the Coimbatore Tea and Coffee Workers' Union. The strike terminated at 8 a.m. on 11th December 1946 when about 170 workers resumed work.

In pursuance of the strike notice given by the Tiruppur Textile Workers' Union at the instance of the Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress the workers of the Asher Textiles, Tiruppur,

struck work from 1 p.m. on 10th December 1946 and the workers of the Dhanalakshmi Mill, Tiruppur, from 8 a.m. on 11th December 1946. Sri Ramanathan of the Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress met the Commissioner of Labour on 12th December 1946 at Coimbatore and the Commissioner advised him to instruct the workers to resume work pending the result of the Court of Inquiry.

On the advice of the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police, Coimbatore, the Kaleswarar Mill, Coimbatore, which was closed from 19th November 1946 has been reopened on 12th December 1946.

The workers of the Spinning department of Sri Balasubramania Mills, Limited, Coimbatore, staged a stay-in-strike on 14th December 1946 demanding the appointment of tarwallas to piece up spinning frames after doffing. The mills have been closed from that date. The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, is trying to bring about a settlement by conciliation.

The workers of the Spinning and Weaving Section of Sri Ranga Vilas Ginning, Spinning and Weaving Mills, Limited, Coimbatore, struck work without notice on the morning of 14th December 1946 as a protest against the disciplinary action taken against a worker. The workers resumed work unconditionally at 7 a.m. on 16th December 1946.

On the assurance of the Commissioner of Labour that their demand for interim relief was being recommended to Government for adjudication, the strike of the tannery workers at Ellore was called off and the workers resumed work at 7 a.m. on 15th December 1946. The orders of Government are awaited.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the employees and the management of Messrs. Parry & Co., Ltd., Madras, regarding fixation of the amount of dearness allowance for clerks and menials to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkatramayya for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules.

All the clerks and menials resumed work on the morning of 7th January 1947.

The Government of Madras have accepted the award of the Adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and managements of the Suryanarayana Spinning and Weaving Mills and the Ramachandra Spinning and Weaving Mills, Pandalapaka. Under this award, each male worker would get a dearness allowance of Rs. 8, each female worker Rs. 6, and each boy Rs. 4 per mensem with effect from 1st October 1946.

The Government of Madras have referred the disputes between the workers and the managements of five more bus services in West Godavari (Sri Venkateswara Motor Service, the Ellore Motor Transport, Limited, Sri Krishna Balaji Motor Service, Sri Maruti Motor Service and Sri Ramanjaneya Motor Service) to the District and Sessions Judge, West Godavari, for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Madura Mills, Co., Ltd , Tuticorin, to a Court of Inquiry consisting of the District and Sessions Judge, Tinnevelly, as its sole member.

The workers of the Beehive Foundry, Madras, who struck work on 16th December 1946 have not yet resumed work in spite of the advice of the Commissioner of Labour who discussed the demands with the representatives of the Union and suggested certain terms for settlement.

The workers of the Binny's Beach Engineering Works, Madras, struck work after notice on 9th January 1947 demanding increased wages, bonus, reinstatement of a dismissed worker with wages, etc.

The Commissioner of Labour, who discussed the demands with the parties, suggested certain terms for settlement and the management were prepared to continue further discussions with the representatives of the workers. The executive of the union was willing to carry on further negotiations but the workers have struck work.

The workers of the Chrome Leather Co., Ltd., Chrompet, numbering about 1,400 struck work without notice on 31st December 1946 demanding bonus, cloth for Pongal, etc. The mangement, who declared a lock-out on the same day, have notified on 7th January 1947 that the work would be resumed from 16th January 1947 on new terms in batches.

The Secretary, Coimbatore District Textile Workers' Union, Singanallur, has issued a notice of general strike to all the mill-owners in Coimbatore district to the effect that if six months basic wages are not granted as bonus, the workers will go on strike from 13th January 1947. The South India Mill Owners' Association and the Union representatives met the Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Labour and the Hon'ble Premier on 17th January 1947 at the Secretariat. The Secretary of the Union has been asked to advise the workers not to resort to strike pending the result of the interview with the Hon'ble Minister and the Hon'ble Premier.

The quarry contract workers of the Coimbatore Cement Works, Madukarai, struck work from 9th December 1946 demanding equal privileges as those given to the factory workers of the Company,

(*Continued on page* 31)

19 FEB 1947

# Fighting back the Famine

## Madras comes out Unscathed

[*Under the heading " Fighting back the Famine " we have been publishing a series of articles describing the genesis of what threatened to be a famine and the steps taken by the Government to meet the grave situation. The shortage in Madras for the year 1946 was much more than that which Bengal had to face in 1943. And yet Madras has come out of the ordeal without the loss of a single life from starvation. The article published here is the last of the series.*]

When the food position of the province was surveyed early in 1946, forecasts predicted that the province would be deficit to the extent of 2,083,000 tons in rice and millets, as the following figures show :—

| | *Rice.* TONS. | *Millets.* TONS. |
|---|---|---|
| Production .. .. | 3,827,000 | 1,942,000 |
| Consumption .. | 4,962,000 | 2,890,000 |
| Deficit .. .. | 1,135,000 | 948,000 |

Normally, Madras is deficit only to the extent of 95,000 tons in rice and 285,000 tons in millets.

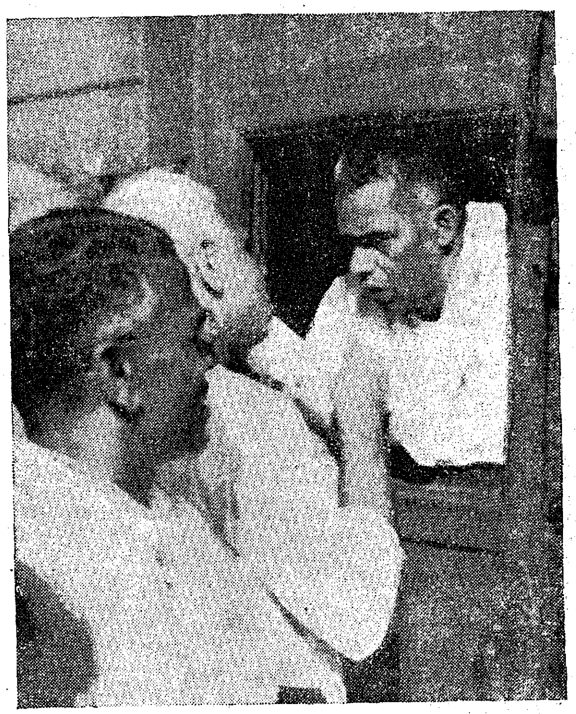
By the end of 1946, rationing had been introduced into all the districts of the province, the ration card-holders being permitted to draw 1 lb. of food grains per head. It was calculated that, even if the ration of foodgrains was reduced to 12 oz., the grain available would not be sufficient to feed the population up to the long-term harvest early in 1947 but that the province would still be deficit by about 510,000 tons of rice and millets. Furthermore, 12 oz. of foodgrains had a calorific value of less than 1,200 calories and it was possible that, if the population was fed on such a low basic diet for a period of several months, under-nutrition might result. Hence, it was desirable not only to import as large a quantity of foodgrains from overseas in order to keep the foodgrains ration up to the reduced level of 12 oz., but also at the same time to persuade the population to supplement their foodgrains ration by eating larger quantities of products, in which the province was surplus, like groundnuts, jaggery and potatoes.

### Foreign Imports

Since Madras is primilarly a rice-eating province, efforts were made to secure as much rice as possible from overseas. But owing to the world-wide rice shortage, the quantity of rice actually imported in 1946 was only 342,364 tons, of which 145,009 tons came from overseas. This rice came mostly from Burma, Brazil and Java, as the following figures show :—

| | TONS. |
|---|---|
| From Burma .. .. .. | 100,128 |
| From Brazil .. .. .. | 29,281 |
| From Java .. .. .. .. | 15,600 |





*Hon'ble Sri R. Raghava Menon talking to the President of the Taluk Producers'-cum-consumers' Co-operative Society, Palghat, during his recent visit to* **Malabar.**

The quantity of rice imported, viz., 342,364 tons, was considerably less than the rice deficit in the province, namely, 1,135,000 tons.

Next to rice, millets are the most important foodgrains in the province. Against the deficit of 948,000 tons, 33,300 tons were imported during 1946. Of this quantity, 22,168 tons came from Egypt, and 6,674 tons from Argentine. It was fortunate that the millets imported from Egypt consisted of cholam, very similar to the cholam grown in the province, so that there was no need to popularize the imported Egyptian millets. The millets imported from Argentine were similar to the local korra which, although not so popular as cholam, is familiar to the millet-eating districts of the province.

The total imports of rice and millets from overseas and from other provinces during 1946 totalled 375,364 tons against a total rice and millets deficit of 2,083,000 tons. Other grains, like wheat, maize, barley, rye and oats were available in the United States of America, Argentine, Canada, Australia and Turkey. The normal consumption of wheat and wheat flour in the province had been only about 5,000 tons and 2,500 tons per month respectively in the years before 1946. Maize is grown in only a few places in the province and its consumption by human beings probably does not normally exceed 1,000 tons per year. Barley and rye are not normally consumed at all in the province. The normal monthly consumption of these unfamiliar foodgrains thus totalled only about 8,000 tons, and was negligible when compared with the gap between the imports and the deficit of rice and millets. This gap amounted to 1,707,336 tons during 1946, equivalent to 142,278 tons per month. Early in 1946, it was not known whether sufficiently large quantities of the unfamiliar grains, like wheat, maida, maize and barley, could be imported from overseas in order to meet even a portion of this gap. Further, it was not known whether large quantities of these unfamiliar foodgrains would be consumed even if they were imported. In 1944, when there was a food shortage in the province although admittedly not so serious a food shortage as in 1946, Government had imported a mere 600 tons of barley, but had not been able to get it consumed in the province and had incurred a heavy financial loss on the transaction. This unfortunate precedent gave rise to doubt as to whether it was desirable to import large quantities of maize, barley, rye and oats and whether such large imports would not result in very heavy financial loss.

The actual quantities of unfamiliar foodgrains imported during 1946 were as follows :—

| | TONS. |
|---|---|
| Wheat .. .. .. .. | 214,021 |
| Maida .. .. .. .. | 55,090 |
| Maize .. .. .. .. | 92,853 |
| Barley .. .. .. .. | 4,890 |
| Rye .. .. .. .. | 2,000 |

In addition, the province was offered 2,000 tons of oats by the Government of India but considered it desirable not to accept the offer. In order to see that these grains were consumed before the long-term harvest in 1947, when it was anticipated that the demand for them would decrease appreciably, the Government took various steps.

### Popularization of Unfamiliar Foods

First of all, campaigns for the popularization of wheat, maize and barley were inaugurated. Advertisements were inserted in most of the newspapers. Lectures were delivered by the large propaganda organization that was set up both in the City and in the mufassal and large number of pamphlets were distributed throughout the province. Altogether, nearly four and a half million pamphlets on the different ways of cooking unfamiliar foodstuffs were distributed.

Secondly, in order to increase consumption, the Government reduced the price of these unfamiliar foodgrains. The wheat, which was being imported at Rs. 9–8–0 per maund from overseas was sold at Rs. 8–8–0 per maund to the wholesalers. Maize, which was imported at Rs. 6–6–0 per maund was sold at Rs. 5 per maund to the wholesalers. Maida, which was imported at Rs. 13–6–0 per maund was sold to the wholesalers at Rs. 8 per maund after 2nd July 1946, but is now being sold at unsubsidized rates, with effect from 1st January 1947. The total expenditure on subsidizing the consumption of wheat, maida, maize and barley during 1946 approximated to Rs. 2·71 crores—a considerable budget item in a province, where the total revenue is only about Rs. 40 crores per year.

The success of the campaigns to increase offtake of the unfamiliar foodgrains can be seen from the following monthly consumption figures, which showed how the consumption of wheat, maize and maida increased from month to month :—

| *Month.* | *Wheat.* TONS. | *Maize.* TONS. | *Maida.* TONS. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1946— | | | |
| April .. .. | 5,849 | .. | .. |
| May .. .. | 3,264 | .. | .. |
| June .. .. | 9,405 | .. | 2,799 |
| July .. .. | 13,895 | .. | 6,674 |
| August .. .. | 28,696 | 2,819 | 9,131 |
| September .. | 29,385 | 6,336 | 5,140 |
| October .. .. | 22,905 | 9,825 | 3,885 |

It will be seen from these figures that the wheat consumption increased from a normal of 5,000 tons per month to nearly 30,000 tons in September and that the maida consumption increased from a normal of 2,500 tons per month to a peak figure of 9,131 tons in August. The reduced consumption of wheat flour after August and of wheat after September was due to the reduced stocks of these foodgrains. Although the greatly increased consumption of wheat and maida must be partly ascribed to the fact that the rice ration was reduced to 8 oz. per head on the 4th August, the greatly increased consumption

# MADRAS IN PICTURES—IV

## (1st Line Beach and Esplanade Area)

*The Dare House*

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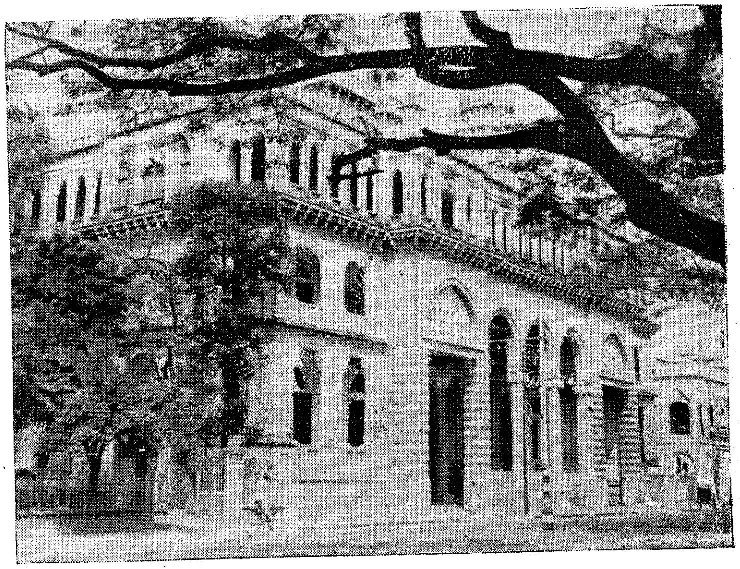
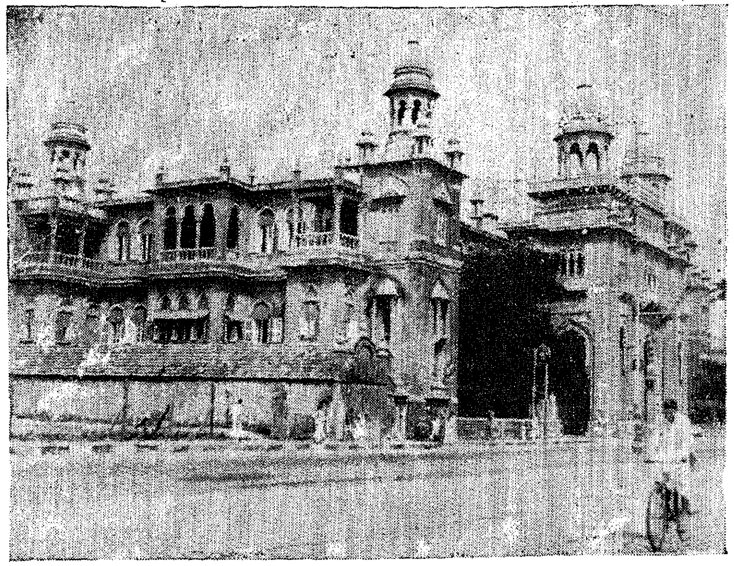
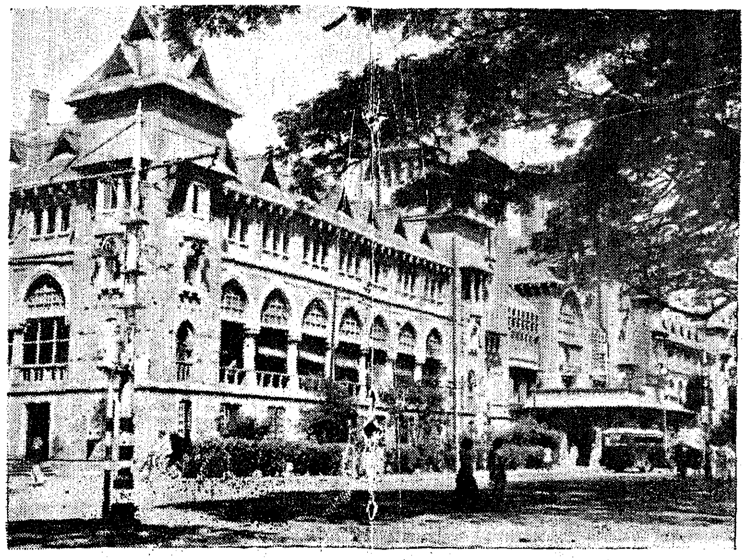
19 FEB 1947
MADRAS



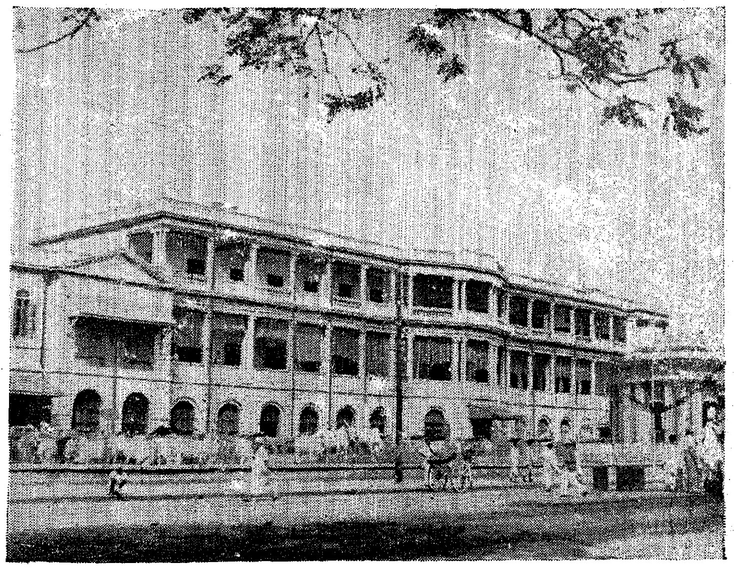
*The National Bank of India, Ltd.*



*The Reserve Bank of India (Madras Office)*



*The General Post Office*



*Madras Collector's Office*

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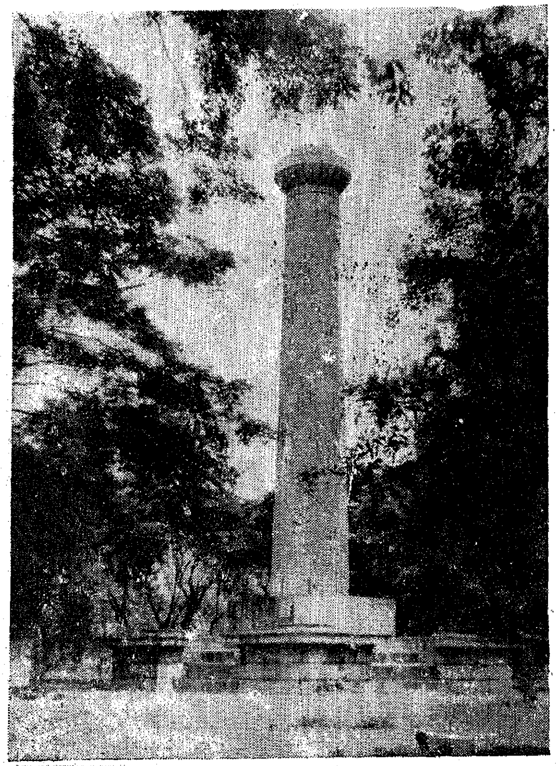
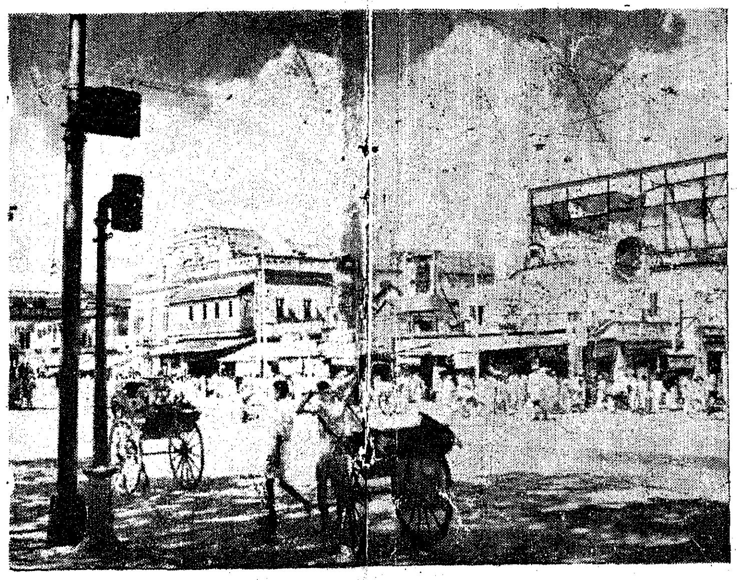
19 FEB 1947
MADRAS

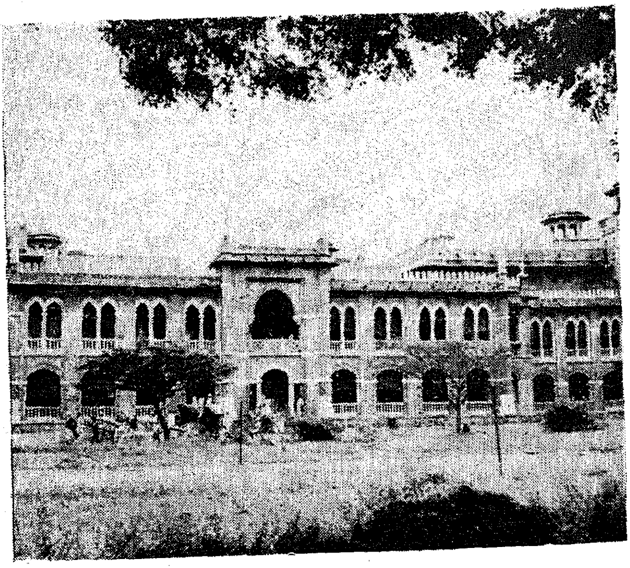


*The Emden Memorial*



*Netaji Subhas Bose Road (formerly China Bazaar Road)*

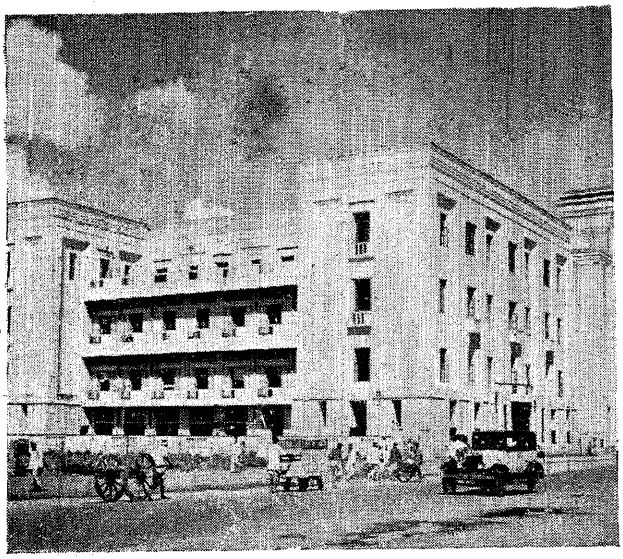
*The High Court*



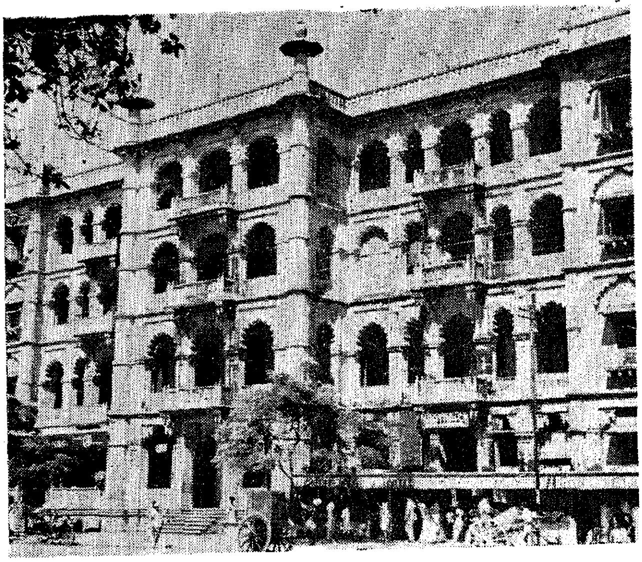
*The Small Causes Court*

*The United India Life Assurance Co., Ltd.*

19 FEB 1941
MADRAS



*The Burma Shell Building*



*The Y.M.C.A. Buildings*

may be regarded as a triumph for the popularization measures. The maize was less familiar to Madrasis than wheat or maida and its popularization may be regarded as an even greater triumph. By the end of December 1946, the wholesalers in the province had only 24,000 tons of maize in stock out of the 92,853 tons which had been imported. As in the case of wheat and maida, the districts of Salem and Coimbatore were the most successful districts in popularizing the maize.

### Other Steps

When the extent of the shortage was first realized early in 1946, the Government not only endeavoured to import as much grain, both familiar and unfamiliar, from overseas as possible but also examined whether the consumption of unfamiliar foodstuffs grown in the province could not be increased. The only major foodstuffs in which this province is surplus are sugarcane and its product jaggery, groundnuts, potatoes and salt. Normally, this province exports 50,000 or 60,000 tons of jaggery to other provinces. In 1946, no exports at all were allowed during the early part of the year and only towards the end of the year did the Government, on representations received from producers, allow exports to other provinces. Altogether, only 21,000 tons were exported to places outside the province.

Madras is normally surplus to the extent of about 400,000 tons of groundnuts and usually allows this quantity to be exported to other provinces and overseas. In 1946, only 23,992 tons of groundnuts were exported from the province. At the same time, during the year, the Government tried to encourage the consumption of groundnuts as much as possible by the civil population. Collectors of all districts were asked to see that groundnuts were available in the ration shops for sale to the ration card-holders. Supplies of groundnuts were moved from Madras to the districts of Malabar, South Kanara, Tinnevelly, the Nilgiris and sold to the people through ration shops in these districts and the City. Recipes for preparations of groundnuts were issued by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies. It was found that ration card-holders did not buy groundnuts in very large quantities and the experiment cannot be regarded as a complete success. It has, however, to be borne in mind that, at the beginning of 1946, it was not known exactly how grave the food situation would be towards the end of the year. If the food shortage had been even greater than it actually was, the experiment for increasing the consumption of groundnuts might have proved a very useful step in preventing starvation.

The province is normally surplus to the extent of about 25,000 tons in potatoes. During 1946, Government considered increasing the consumption of potatoes within the province by subsidizing the price but ultimately this subsidy scheme was not adopted since it was found to be too expensive. It may be noted that the nutritional value of potatoes in certain respects is much less than that of foodgrains—the calorific value being only 28 per cent that of rice. The consumption of fresh potatoes however increased slightly in 1946 to about 15,500 tons and about 32,500 tons were exported. In addition, during 1946, 2,232 tons of dehydrated potatoes were imported from overseas and were consumed within the province at subsidized rates. Two hundred tons of dehydrated potatoes produced by Parry's factory at Mettupalayam were also consumed within the province. The total subsidy expended upon the sale of dehydrated potatoes was about Rs. 45 lakhs.

It will be seen from this brief account that the acute shortage of 1946 in Madras was combated not only by introducing an efficient system of procurement and rationing but also by inducing people to eat the large quantities of unfamiliar foodstuffs imported and available within the province. A feature of the Bengal famine of 1943 was the large financial loss resulting from foodgrains, which had been maldistributed, becoming unfit for human consumption. But in spite of the import of large quantities of unfamiliar foodstuffs in 1946, Madras, by accurate estimation of the quantity required, by judicious use of subsidies and by good distribution dependent upon up to date and accurate statistical knowledge of stocks, production and consumption, has minimized the financial loss resulting from deterioration of the unfamiliar foodstuffs.

## Price of Groundnut Kernel

The question of fixing prices for groundnut kernel and oil in parity with prices fixed in Hyderabad and Bombay has been under the consideration of the Government of Madras and the Government of India says a Press Note issued on **January 15, 1947.** The Government of India have convened a Conference at Delhi on the 20th January to discuss this question and also settle the procedure to be followed in regard to future exports of kernel and oil from Madras. The meeting will be attended by representatives of the Governments of Madras, Bombay and Hyderabad.

[January 15, 1947]

# Prohibition News

## Kurnool

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR visited Kurnool district during the fortnight under report. At Pyapally members of the Village Uplift Committee explained to His Excellency measures taken so far to improve the lot of the villagers particularly of the ex-addicts under the rural uplift programme sponsored in the wake of prohibition in this district. His Excellency was shown a few hundi boxes that had been distributed to members. To provide work for the weavers for a larger number of days, the local Weavers' Society has made an arrangement to supplement the supply of mill-yarn with the hand-spun yarn, obtained from the neighbouring villages. A few samples of cloth prepared out of this mixed yarn, mill-made and hand-spun, were shown to His Excellency who expressed much satisfaction at the arrangements made.

At Allagadda a cinema was started by the ex-abkari renters. One of the toddy shops has been converted into the cinema theatre. It is understood that the cinema is providing the much needed recreation in the town.

*Refreshment stalls.*—One hundred and thirty seven refreshment stalls are functionng for the benefit of ex-addicts.

*Employment of ex-tappers*—Arrangements have been made for the grant of licences to tappers for jaggery manufacture by Assistant Development Officers and Revenue Inspectors. Eleven jaggery societies were revived by the Special Development Officer.

*Thrift and savings.*—Fifty hundi boxes have been distributed during the fortnight and the Salem Co-operative Central Bank is expediting the manufacture of 4,000 hundi boxes.

The Hon'ble Sri K. R. Karanth, Minister of Revenue, visited Dharmapuri during the fortnight and addressed a public meeting on the Prohibition Policy of the Government.

## Coimbatore

Eight big public meetings were held under the presidency of the Collector in the following places :—

1. Eshumathur.
2. Unjalur.
3. Ganapathipalayam.
4. Sivagiri.
5. Nagalingapuram.
6. Mangalam.
7. Thuravalur.
8. Vadugapalayam.

*Jaggery Manufacturers' Societies.*—The formation of societies and issue of licences are being pushed through by the Assistant Development Officers. For instance, the Assistant Development Officer, Gobichettipalayam, has issued 2,000 licences.

## Working of Prohibition Act

The following report on the working of the Prohibition Act in the Districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Coimbatore, Salem, Chittoor and North Arcot during November 1946 is published for information :—

### General situation

Prohibition has been in force for two months in the Districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Coimbatore, Salem, Chittoor and North Arcot after its re-introduction. The working of the Act remained in charge of the Police department in the Districts of Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor and the Excise Department in the other four districts. There has been satisfactory co-operation on the enforcement side from the village officers and the general public in some but not in all the districts.

### Enforcement work

*Cases.*—The total number of cases detected during the month has increased by 75 per cent over the number detected in the previous month. There was a marked increase in detection under illicit distillation of arrack. The number of cases increased from 195 to 423. The increase was marked in Salem 110 (28) and in Kurnool 54 (10) and was considerable in Cuddapah 109 (55) and in North Arcot 86 (58). The number of cases in Coimbatore district is surprisingly low, being only 5 as against 2 in the previous month.

*Illicit tapping.*—The number of illicit tapping cases detected during the month was 15 showing a slight increase over the number of cases (viz., 9) detected during the previous month.

*Intoxicating drugs.*—There were 196 (150) cases relating to intoxicating drugs most of them relating to the possession of small quantities of ganja.

*Denatured spirit.*—There was a tendency for consumption to increase in six out of the eight districts. Collectors have been instructed to keep a close watch to ensure that the increase in consumption is not the result of any misuse of the spirit.

*Border problems.*—It is reported that a large number of persons still continue to visit border shops for drink. The State Governments and the Bombay Government, whose territories adjoin the Prohibition districts, have been moved either to close the border shops or remove them to a greater distance from the border. The Cochin Government have also been addressed to introduce total

Prohibition in Chittur-Cochin which is surrounded by the Malabar and Coimbatore districts.

Border patrolling has been active during the month particularly in the Police—Prohibition districts. The number of cases of smuggling of liquor has increased from 33 to 68 but there is no sign of large scale attempts to import liquor from outside. The number of cases of drug smuggling detected has increased from 17 to 48 consisting mainly of the smuggling of small quantities of ganja.

*Sweet juice tapping.*—This has been prohibited in Bellary and Kurnool districts. In Salem district the tapping of palmyra trees alone is allowed subject to the provisions of the Madras sweet toddy rules.

*Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees.*—The formation of Taluk Prohibition Committees was complete in Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, and North Arcot districts and in six taluks of Salem, while in Coimbatore, Cuddapah and Chittoor, they were in the course of formation. Village Committees have been formed in Anantapur and Bellary districts and in the Nandyal taluk of Kurnool district and in the remaining places they were in the course of formation. During the month, only one case was reported by the Taluk or Village Prohibition Committees.

## Ameliorative work

*Employment of ex-tappers.*—Emigration to neighbouring districts for tapping work and employment on agricultural, industrial and road work have relieved unemployment among ex-toddy tappers to a considerable extent.

*Co-operative activities.*—Co-operative Societies for jaggery manufacture that had already been organised continued to function. The ex-addicts of Mariapuram have been registered as a Co-operative Society for the supply of milk to Cuddapah. The scavengers of Gooty have been similarly organised into a Co-operative Society for the supply of milk. With the savings effected on account of Prohibition, these ex-addicts will purchase cows and buffaloes and improve their income. Incidentally the scarcity of milk at Gooty and Cuddapah will also be relieved.

The scheme of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for promoting thrift through the system of home-safe deposits in 200 Co-operative Societies in each prohibition district showed progress in all districts except Coimbatore. It will be some time before all the selected Societies introduce hundi boxes for the purpose and systematic progress can be noticed.

*Recreation and counter attractions.*—Most of the Refreshment Stalls opened in October 1946 were continued during November, 1946. More stalls were opened in the Districts of Coimbatore, Kurnool and Bellary. In general, the refreshment stalls continued to be popular in places where drinks and food were provided free of cost. Private donations to support these refreshment stalls were generous in Coimbatore district.

Bhajana parties were organised at several places. A pandari bhajana party recently organised at Erikuthi in Gudiyattam taluk of North Arcot district, deserves special mention in this connection. This party provides regular entertainment on three nights in the week in a shed newly erected for the purpose. The villagers enjoy the songs and the dances till late in the night and the Adi-Dravidas of the locality provide kolattam in the same pandal.

Kathaprasangam and reading of the Ramayanam and Mahabaratham have been reported from the Districts of Salem, Anantapur, Chittoor and Coimbatore. The Sadhus of Ramakrishna Mutt of Bangalore gave a series of recitals in Hospet in Bellary district. From Cuddapah district report has been received of a Muslim gentleman who has been reading out stories and of a Muslim lady reading books to women gathered in her house in the evenings.

Two amateur dramatic troupes entertained ex-addicts at Gooty and Guntakal in the Anantapur district. Street dramas were enacted in the Districts of Bellary and North Arcot. A dramatic touring party composed of a Maratha family is touring in the villages of Badvel taluk in the Cuddapah district providing entertainment to ex-addicts and others. In Kurnool district several dramatic troupes are being organised.

Two cinema houses in Anantapur district provided free entertainment to ex-addicts. Some touring cinemas in Salem district issued 20 free tickets a day to ex-addicts.

The organisation of radios, rural games and tournaments also continued to show satisfactory progress in all the districts.

*Rural uplift schools.*—Rural uplift schools were opened in the Districts of Salem, North Arcot, and Chittoor during the month. The main object of this school is to train village-guides in each Prohibition district in rural recreation and rural uplift. It is proposed to conduct two such schools in each of the prohibition districts before the end of March 1947.

*Grama Sangams.*—Two thousand one hundred and twenty-two sangams have so far been organised

# RURAL RECREATION SCHEME

## Antidote to Drink

### Details Explained

RURAL Recreation is one of the most important items of ameliorative work connected with Prohibition. It includes not only the provision of rural games, the conduct of tournaments, and the organization of Rural Recreation Clubs, but also the encouragement of bhajanas, dramas, harikathas, folk dances, etc.

When Prohibition was reintroduced on 1st October 1946 in the districts of Salem, Chittoor, Cuddapah and North Arcot and introduced for the first time in the districts of Bellary, Coimbatore, Kurnool and Anantapur, Rural Recreation was taken up by the eight Rural Recreation Organizers and their seven Assistants who were already working in these districts, and their efforts were strengthened by transferring to these districts 12 more Rural Recreation Organizers from other districts in the province.

But the provision of recreation on a district-wide scale required a much larger staff. Government, therefore, sanctioned a staff of 77 Rural Recreation Officers on Rs. 75—5/2—100 at the rate of one per taluk. Applications were invited for these posts both from civil candidates and from those who had put in war service. A special committee consisting of the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition, the Principal of the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, Saidapet, and the Services Resettlement Liaison Officer, interviewed the applicants and selected 65 candidates.

As most of these selected candidates had not undergone a course of rural recreation suited to the work on hand, it was considered necessary that they should be put through a special course for the purpose with the aid of the Y.M.C.A. College of Rural Recreation. Government were therefore pleased to sanction a sum of Rs. 2,000 for expenses connected with the course and the training of the selected candidates was entrusted to a Committee consisting of the Principal of the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, the Services Resettlement Liaison Officer and the Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition. This Committee is assisted by a Chief Physical Instructor. The Principal of the Y.M.C.A. College and his assistant have very kindly offered to help in the conduct of the course, and the lecture-hall and playgrounds of the College have been made available for the purpose.

Fifty of the selected candidates have reported themselves for duty so far. Thanks to the kind courtesy of the military authorities and the co-operation of the Collector of Chingleput, these students are accommodated in the tents pitched in the Collector's Office compound adjoining the Y.M.C.A. College grounds. Arrangements have been made for their food with a local hotel-keeper, who serves them two meals and two tiffins in the tents every day which will be paid for by the students out of their stipend of Rs. 50 a month. The camp life will be regulated by the students themselves on a democratic basis.

The instructions imparted during the course will consist of three parts. The first and most important part relates to rural recreation. Games will be conducted every morning and evening for three hours in all in which the students will not only participate but will be made to organize the games themselves by turns. Special emphasis will be laid on such games as evoke laughter and merriment; for, what is wanted in villages is gaiety and mirth. Care will also be taken that these games do not require much equipment

(*Continued on page* 31).

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in all the prohibition districts. The Sangams did useful work by providing first-aid centres, veterinary aid centres, adult schools, etc., and by installing electric pumps, constructing and repairing roads, removing rubbish heaps, organising games, forming co-operative stores, distributing quinine, forming reading circles, etc.

#### General

In general reports received show that there are already signs of improvement in the economic and social conditions of the people. The ex-addicts are better fed now. Domestic quarrels and street brawls are declining. Savings are effected and women particularly are welcoming the home-safe deposits scheme.

A considerable amount of useful work was done during the month both on the enforcement and ameliorative sides. Future progress will depend largely on the amount of co-operation which the Prohibition staff receives from other officials and from the general public.

[January 20, 1947]

19 FEB 1947 MADRAS

# Rural Recreation Officers' Training Camp

## MR. DIXON's address at the inaugural ceremony

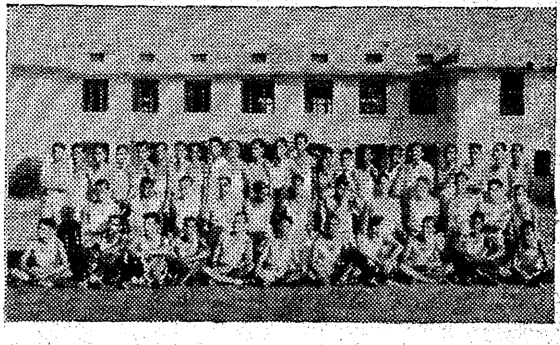
[The Rural Recreation Officers' Training Camp was inaugurated on the 17th of January, 1947, by the Hon'ble Sri K. Koti Reddi, Minister of Prohibition. The following is the text of the address delivered by Mr. Dixon at the inaugural ceremony.]

*Mr. Dixon and the Hon'ble Sri K. Koti Reddi*

It may perhaps be asked—what has Rural Recreation to do with Prohibition? To answer this we have to endeavour to place ourselves in the position of average villagers who were formerly addicted to drink. Most of these persons were labourers, who after toiling for long hours in the field had nothing to return to but a hut in a dull and lifeless village, with nothing to do but to sit on the pial of their huts. Can it be wondered that they preferred to resort with their friends to the drink shop where they could purchase forgetfulness and even merriment? Drinking was largely a form of escapism from a dull and dreary existence. Having taken away this means of escape, we must provide some alternative and endeavour to enliven the village in the evening hours. Otherwise the ex-drinker driven to desperation by boredom will resort to illicit practices and buy forgetfulness again in defiance of the Prohibition law.

It was Mr. Rajagopalachari, the father of Prohibition in this Province, who conceived the idea of providing counter-attractions to drink in the village, by reviving, encouraging and developing the age-old games, entertainments and amusements provided from time to time in villages, adding new items and endeavouring to provide some form of entertainment on most evenings in the week. In pursuance of these instructions, I was able, with the assistance of Mr. Ryan and other officers, and of the Revenue department, to organize amusements on a districtwide scale in Salem district in the previous Prohibition period. At one time Rural Recreation was carried on in more than 1,000 centres in that district, Chadugudu and other games were played in most villages, and bhajanas, dramas, harikathas, kalakshepams, country dances and the like grew in popularity. Firka, taluk, and district tournaments were arranged, which aroused much enthusiasm and developed a spirit of village unity and village patriotism, besides the original design of providing a counter attraction to drink. Similar activities were carried on later in the other three districts in the earlier period of Prohibition.

Though intended originally to provide a counter attraction to drink, rural recreation was found, almost by accident, to be an excellent preparation for general village uplift. The object of Prohibition is to raise the economic, social and moral level of the people. It is not enough therefore



*Trainees at the Rural Recreation Officers' Training Camp*

merely to enforce Prohibition and provide counter attractions ; side by side with this there should be a rural uplift drive, designed to take the opportunity afforded by the introduction of Prohibition to make the village and the town a healthier, happier and more prosperous place. Rural Recreation, by bringing villagers together and uniting them, by arousing their interest and waking them from their apathy, proved a good preparation for interesting them in ways and means of improving their economic condition.

Thus the rural recreation clubs organized in the first Prohibition period and those that are being built up during the present period are developing into Grama Sanghams or Village Betterment Committees, which, besides providing play-grounds, games, folk dances, dramas and other entertainments are interesting themselves in repairing roads, sinking wells, cleaning up villages, promoting thrift, better agriculture and animal husbandry, organizing co-operative societies and village panchayats, and so on. Rural recreation is the road through which the villager passes into general progress. A further connexion between rural recreation and rural uplift is the firka, taluk and district tournament, at which rural exhibitions are held in cottage industries, combined with agricultural and cattle shows. Various departments of Government participate in these shows.

*Principal of the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education*

The organization of rural recreation in towns and villages in the eight Prohibition districts is a big task and Government have been pleased to sanction the appointment of 77 Rural Recreation Officers at the rate of one for each taluk for organizing rural recreation in the Prohibition districts. A sufficient number of officers trained in rural recreation was not available for employment. The few who were already employed in these eight districts and some who are working under Government in other districts were concentrated in the Prohibition districts and rural recreation was organized there to some extent. Now recruitment was essential and after advertising, 65 candidates were selected against the 77 posts sanctioned by Government, most of whom are from the services. A training course of two months' duration was arranged and the Principal of the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education has very kindly offered to assist in training these young men in rural games by permitting them to use the facilities of his college for the purpose, and also sparing the services of lecturers whenever possible. We are very grateful to him for this. The conduct of the training course has been entrusted to a Special Committee consisting of Mr. C. S. Moffat, Principal of the College, Lieut.-Col. H. H. English, Services Resettlement Liaison Officer and Mr. J. C. Ryan, Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition (Amelioration). The course is expected to last till the 14th of March 1947. Government have sanctioned the appointment of one Chief Physical Instructor and an Assistant Physical Instructor to be in immediate charge of the training.

As the chief work of the Rural Recreation Officers, when they are posted to their respective taluks will be to organize games on an extensive scale, to conduct matches and tournaments, to organize bhajanas, dramas, folk dances and other entertainments, and to build up rural recreation clubs for this purpose in villages and towns, the instructions imparted in this course will relate chiefly to rural recreation.

For the reasons, however, which I have already stated, rural recreation is only the starting point for a greater rural uplift drive. The spirit of competition aroused by tournaments gives rise to a spirit of competition for progress in other directions as well. Rural Recreation Officers, who draw out such a competitive spirit in games, are potent agents to rouse interests in rural uplift among rural folk. Hence, they will be given elementary instructions by select officers of the various nation building departments of Government for an hour every day. They will be equipped with information on the various ways in which departments like the Agricultural department, Veterinary department, the Industries department and the Co-operative department are contributing to general uplift. It is not pretended that they will become experts, but it is hoped that they will, in addition to entertaining villagers, be able to explain to them what they can do themselves or with Government help to improve village life. It will be the object of this training class to produce officers who will not only arouse enthusiasm in villages by organizing entertainments, games and amusements but also will work for the cause of general progress. These Rural Recreation Officers will be assisted by Village Guides trained in the rural uplift schools held in the districts.

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AT WORK

(*Continued from page* 18)

etc. The management have closed the factory on 5th January 1947 for want of stones.

The General Secretary, Salem Mill Workers' Union, Salem, has served notices of strike on the Managers of Rajendra Mills, Ltd., and Jawahar Mills, Ltd., Salem to the effect that the workers will go on strike any day after 22nd January 1947 if their demands for 6 months wages as bonus, reinstatement of victimized workers, etc., are not conceded by the managements. The Union has been advised not to resort to strike pending the result of the Court of Inquiry.

The workers of Messrs. Hoe & Co., Madras, belonging to the Madras Press Labour Union, struck work on 13th January 1947 demanding bonus, incresased wages, dearness allowance of 4 annas a point above 100 in the cost of living index figure, etc., and prevented other workers from entering the factory. As the management have at the instance of the Commissioner of Labour, granted increased wages, dearness allowance at 3 annas a point above 100 in the cost of living index figure, provident fund, etc., the Commissioner of Labour advised the workers to resume work. The workers belonging to the Hoe and Company Employees' Association resumed work on 16th January 1947 ; 14th and 15th were factory holidays. The workers belonging to the other Union have not yet resumed work.

### IV Revenue

Requests have been made by the Village Officers' Association to the Government that a lump sum grant similar to that which the Government have sanctioned to the Non-Gazetted Officers' may be paid to the village establishments also.

There is no case for a similar grant to the village establishments since the pay of the village officers and servants was increased by Rs. 3 per mensem with effect from 1st August 1946 while the revision of the pay of the members of the subordinate services takes effect from 1st January 1947. The lump sum to the subordinate services has been paid in view of the delay in revising their pay.

The Government do not consider it necessary to increase further the pay and dearness allowance of the village establishments.

## RURAL RECREATION SCHEME

(*Continued from page* 28)

because it will be difficult to command such equipment in villages. Above all, attention will be concentrated on indigenous games like Chedugudu ; for, it is easier to revive native games than to introduce foreign ones.

The second part of the instruction will relate to rural uplift work. The Agricultural, the Veterinary, the Industries, the Co-operative, the Educational, the Public Health, the Village Panchayat and the Revenue Departments have been good enough to depute an Officer each to acquaint the students with the activities of their respective departments, so that they may, in their turn, acquaint villagers of them. Each department is allotted three to six hours. It is not expected that the students will become experts in these subjects ; but in a country where illiteracy is great, the information which they can convey to the rural folk by word of mouth regarding the various facilities available with these departments will be of immense value particularly when it is conveyed after the enthusiasm of villagers is roused by rural games.

The third part of the instruction will consist of visits on every Saturday to nearby co-operative institutions like the Co-operative Milk Union, the Provincial Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Stores, the Central Co-operative Bank, etc. As Co-operation is playing an ever-increasing part in the rebuilding of rural economy, it is expected that these visits will be of much practical value in rural uplift work in which these Rural Recreation Officers are expected to play a part. Institutions like the Government Poultry Farm, the Fish Nursery Yards, etc., will also be included in the Saturday excursions.

The Training Course will conclude on 14th March 1947, when the successful candidates will be assigned a taluk in each Prohibition district. They will be expected to organize rural games in every village and town, establish a recreation club in each and build it up into a Village Betterment Committee or Gramasangham, through which other rural activities like clearing up the villages, organising co-operative societies or Village Panchayats, mending roads, etc., etc., will be undertaken with the aid of departmental and non-departmental agencies available in the village.

# Overcrowding in City Hospitals

*By* MAJOR SANGHAM LAL, I.M.S.,
Superintendent, Government General Hospital.

**Mufassal Patients and Neglected Cases.**

The City hospitals are working under great stress as a result of the very large number of patients who come seeking admission into them for treatment. This large number may be attributed partly to the fact that the average person—rich and poor alike—has realised that the hospitals are really doing good work. While this thought is very encouraging to the hospital staff, it is a source of great worry inasmuch as the accommodation at present available in City hospitals is not enough to meet this growing demand.

The realisation of the benefits of hospital treatment by the average man has extended far into the districts of the Province. A large proportion of the patients presenting themselves to the city hospitals for treatment are from the several districts, in some cases even from beyond 300 miles and more. They come in very large numbers daily with the hope of getting admitted and getting the best available treatment but the number is so large indeed that the hospitals are very hard put to it to cope with the demand.

Her Excellency Lady Nye has rightly pointed out that the average person in this Presidency does not take heed of the early symptoms of the disease and seeks treatment at the very commencement of his physical troubles. The result is a large number of people suffering from chronic diseases requiring prolonged treatment.

**Remedies.**

(a) *Extension of Accommodation.*

The obvious thing is to increase the available accommodation in the various hospitals or to start a certain number of new hospitals which will ease the tension. The Government are considering the question of extension of hospital accommodation throughout the Presidency.

The next best is to let the average inhabitant of this Presidency know the facilities he has for getting treatment nearer home.

(b) *Make the best of local facilities.*

Almost every group of villages has got its rural dispensary and different parts of districts are served by Local Fund or District Board dispensaries and hospitals as well as Taluk Headquarters hospitals which are run by the Government. Most of these hospitals have got provision for the treatment of a very large number of the common ailments of the locality and they are fairly well-equiped with the necessary medicines and appliances for the same. Now and again some complicated cases may turn up in their locality which may require further investigation by more advanced methods which are not available at these centres. Such facilities exist in most of the District Headquarters Hospitals which are in charge of senior and experienced members of the service.

Every person in the Presidency must know that if the advice and suggestions made by Lady Nye are followed that "he should seek advice of the nearest doctor at the earliest possible time when he finds he is not well"—most cases of chronic illness could be avoided. This is the first thing which must be realised by the public at large.

(c) *Right Medical Advice.*

There is a tendency among doctors to suggest that the patient should go to Madras for further X-Ray treatment straightaway. The fact that the District Headquarters Hospital is fairly well-equipped to meet with almost all types of cases must be brought home to the general public and he will be well-advised to seek further help from the District Headquarters Hospital nearest to him. If the District Medical Officer thinks that the case requires further detailed investigations for which facilities are not available in his own place, or if he feels that the patient should have the benefit of some specialised form of treatment like the X-Ray or Radium Therapy which again is not available in most mufassal institutions, then he should direct these cases for admission to the city hospitals.

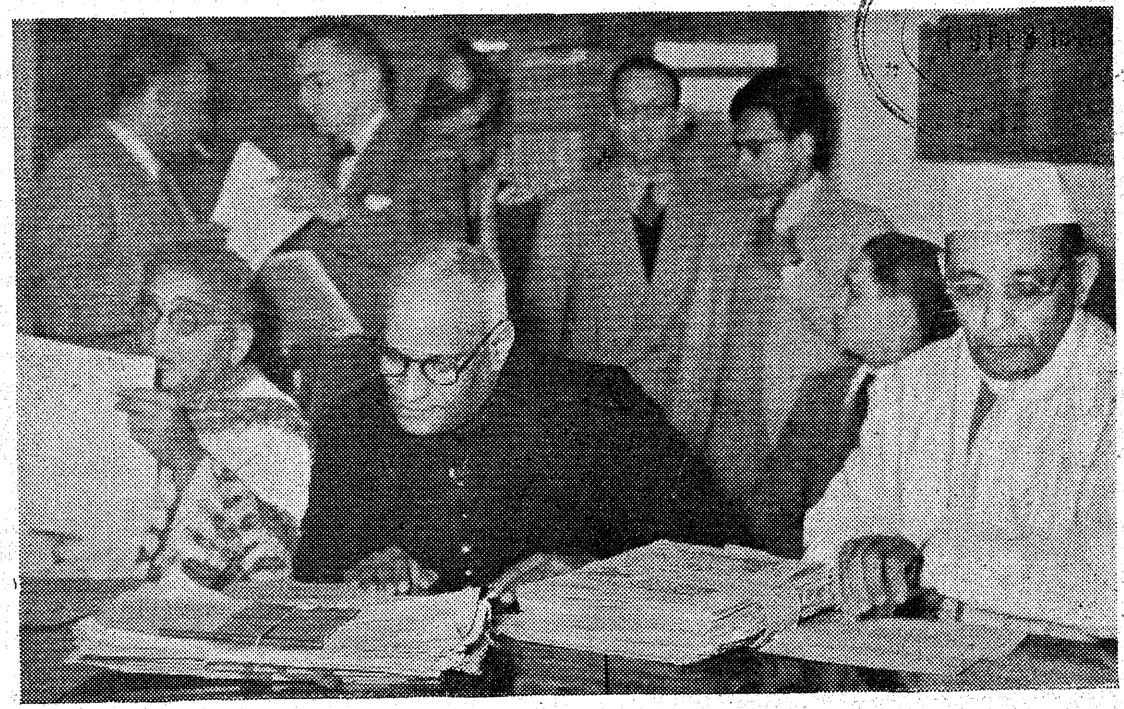
This will minimise the number of people who come straightaway to the City hospitals for treatment. Our experience in this hospital has shown that a majority of these cases that come from mufassal could very well have been treated at the District Headquarters Hospitals and would have been treated there if they had gone there. Failure to go there brings about a greater stress in the City hospitals.

The average person when he becomes ill consults his friends and one of them says, "Oh! Go to Madras. There is such and such a doctor in such and such a hospital and he has cured my mother, or my relative, or myself" and straightaway this patient, also hoping to get the same treatment, starts to Madras, often with

money he has had to borrow from somebody else for his expenses and journey and seeks admission into the one of the City hospitals. It is a very hard thing for the doctors to decide as to what should be done after having examined him and found that he is just suffering from a neglected chronic ailment which requires some form of treatment over prolonged periods of two to three months, which treatment he could very well have had in one of the hospitals nearer his own place. Faced with the over-crowding in the hospitals on the one hand and on the other the importunities of this man who has come all this distance in the hope of getting admitted, the position of the doctor is not a very enviable one indeed. In many cases they have to refuse admission telling the man that his disease is so and so and he could get treated on these lines nearer his own home and for lack of beds he has got to be turned away. In other cases, again, they have probably to admit the patient for just a few days, initiate the treatment and, when signs of progress are noticed, send him back in a partially relieved state but not cured, with the advice to follow this treatment at his own home. These patients are also dissatisfied because they are sent away before they are cured. The commonest instances are those suffering from advanced incurable maladies like cancer which will not benefit by any form of available treatment or some disease in the nervous system which cannot be remedied. These patients also have to be refused admission as there is no prospect of benefiting them, and they will be only occupying the bed which could very well be given to some other patient who can benefit from treatment.

I repeat and emphasise the advisability of patients seeking the expert advice of the District Headquarters Hospital before proceeding to the city for admission, if they do not desire to be disappointed.

## TEXTILE CONFERENCE IN DELHI



*Ways and means of combating the acute scarcity of cloth in the country were discussed at the Conference of Provincial and States Ministers held in New Delhi on January 10, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Dr. John Mathai, Member for Industries and Supplies in the Interim Government*

Photo shows: *Mr. T. Prakasam, Premier of Madras and Mr. V. V. Giri and Mr. Dinker Rao Desai, Ministers from Madras and Bombay, photographed during the Conference*

# Grade and Status of Teachers Raised

## Minister's Call for Greater Efficiency and Service

The following is the address delivered by the Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Minister for Education, at the Provincial Labour School Teachers' Conference held at Vellore on January 19, 1947 :—

I am glad to get this opportunity of coming into contact with workers who are mostly employed in raising the status of a community in the uplift of which all of us are deeply interested. Before touching upon some of the aspects of our work in that direction, you would expect me to say just a few words about the revision of salaries to which you have been looking forward. The lower-paid officials among the Government servants as well as others have been deeply hit by the large rise in prices. The dearness allowance, though good in itself, has not helped them to get over their difficulties. There has been a feeling that the basic salaries should be raised. The Government have been giving their earnest and deep consideration to the matter. Consistent with their finances, they have gone to the maximum extent possible in the revision of salaries of their lower-paid servants. It is the policy of this Government that the lower-paid services must be given a great deal of scope for reaching higher rungs in the ladder. This scope they have tried to give in the many branches of their services. For the present, we are concerned only with the Education Department. The present salaries of the higher grade teachers is between 20—30. This has been raised for those who know a craft to 30—55. It is not the intention of the Government that these higher grade teachers should remain higher grade teachers all their life. Opportunities have been provided to them to pass the S.S.L.C. as well as the secondary grade training examinations, so that they can have the opportunity of getting into that cadre.

### Substantial Increases in Pay

The secondary grade itself has been started with Rs. 45 for those who know a craft and they can rise up to Rs. 75 as against the present Rs. 30—55. You will appreciate the considerable enhancement of the salaries that has been made. In addition, the Government have provided further scope to the secondary grade teachers. It is the intention of the Government to take a large number of secondary grade teachers from all managements as Junior Deputy Inspectors whose pay has been revised to Rs. 60—120, and so, it is possible for a good and diligent higher grade teacher who continuously qualifies himself and proves efficient to rise up to 120.

So far as L.T's. are concerned, those with craft in Government service start with 85 and go up to 240. The selection to the first grade which was previously confined to 20 per cent has been enhanced to 33⅓, so that all normally efficient men can reach the maximum 240 without difficulty, and over and above that they have got the scope of becoming District Educational Officers and Divisional Inspectors which are some of the highest posts in the Education Department.

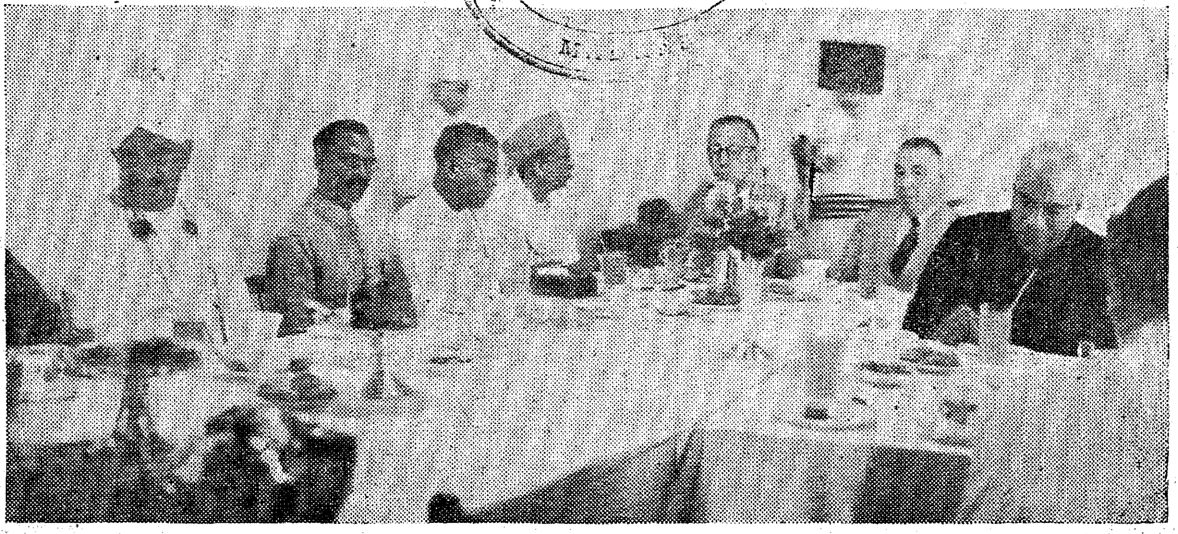
Large increases have also been given to the local board teachers and grants to elementary schools have also been substantially increased. One great innovation has been made in the matter of giving grants to aided elementary schools. Till sometime back, grant to the aided higher elementary school teacher was only Rs. 14 and the secondary grade teacher only Rs. 18. Irrespective of the number of years of service of the teacher, he continued to get the same grant but in the present revision, not only has their grant been raised to 20 and 25 respectively, but also they have been put on a definite time scale. Another important concession has now been given to the elementary school teachers and that is a special allowance to the headmasters of elementary schools.

As far as the aided secondary schools are concerned, while the Government have advised the management to give the local board scale of salaries to the teacher, they have come forward to pay, on their side, half of the net cost on the basis of local board scales and expect the management to fulfil their obligation of paying the other half. So, it will be seen that the Government have gone a long way in improving the status of the teachers in the elementary and the secondary schools. The recent revision of salaries has cost the Government nearly Rs. 2½ crores and a large portion of this is accounted for by the Education Department itself.

### Play Your Part Well

The Government have tried to do their best for the teachers and they expect the teachers to do their part well and truly. It is unfortunate that there is a great deal of complaints of inefficiency and indifference in the working of our elementary schools. Unless we can satisfy the public that we are doing our part of work sincerely,

(*Continued on page* 42.)



*A party was given to the Punjab Assembly Speaker (on the extreme left) at the Madras Secretariat during his recent visit to the South*

# Re-settlement of Ex-servicemen

## Progress of work in the Province up to November 1946

| | |
|---|---|
| A. Total recruitment .. .. .. | 413,807 |
| B. Index cards of ex-servicemen of the Madras Province received in the Master Register Section at the Regional Employment Exchange, Madras. | 126,695 |
| C. *Ex-servicemen registered at—* | |
| (*a*) Employment Exchanges .. | 70,122 |
| (*b*) Special Assistants to the Collectors (up to October 1946). | 63,640 |
| D. *Placed in employment by—* | |
| (*a*) Employment Exchanges .. | 8,750 |
| (*b*) Special Assistants to the Collectors (up to October 1946). | 14,644 |
| (*c*) Recruiting and Employment Offices. | 1,913 |
| Total .. | 25,307 |
| E. *Employed in—* | |
| (*a*) Labour Contract Societies including the Moplah Labour Force Labour Contract Society. | 246 |
| (*b*) Co-operative Workshops .. | 520 |
| (*c*) Land Colonization Schemes .. | 583 |
| Total .. | 1,349 |
| F. *Found work* .. .. .. .. | 1,112 |
| G. Undergoing training under the Technical Training Scheme of the Government of India excluding Indian States. | 1,579 |
| H. *Undergoing training in the Provincial Government Scheme—* | |
| (*a*) Co-operative societies training. | * 295 |
| (*b*) Agricultural fieldmen and maistris' training. | 290 |
| (*c*) Co-operative societies (at the co-operative institute). | 204 |
| (*d*) Undergoing training at War Disabled Centre at Madras. | 115 |
| Total .. | † 2,483 |
| *Ex-servicemen—* | |
| (*a*) Who have not availed of opportunities for training (up to 15th November 1946). | 2,935 |
| (*b*) Who are rejected or considered unsuitable for employment by Special Assistants. | 1,881 |
| (*c*) Whose registrations at Employment Exchanges have elapsed. | 9,252 |

* This figure is included in E (*b*).

† This excludes 192 trainees under the Technical Training Scheme and 257 war disabled trainees undergoing training in the States.

1 9 FEB 1947

# Important Role of Co-operative Organizations

## Hon'ble Sri Giri's Address

[*Inaugurating the Twenty-sixth Madras Provincial Co-operative Conference on January 4, 1947, the Hon'ble Sri V. V. Giri said that the application of the co-operative principle need not be confined to the problems of rural economy alone, but can be employed for the benefit of all classes of people, rural and urban who want to better their economic condition by voluntary association and mutual aid. Extracts from the speech are given below.*]

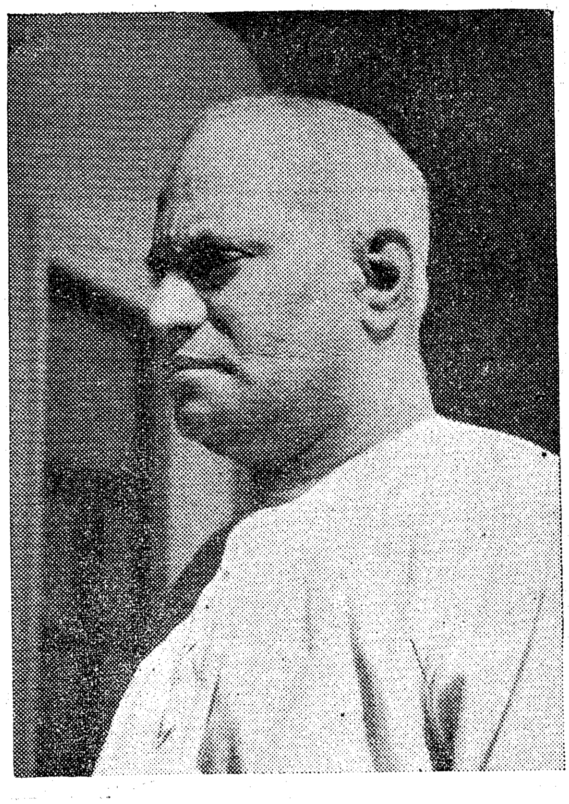
India is a land of villages and the main occupation has been and will be agriculture. The agriculturist, being the back bone of the nation, any movement which can be called 'nation building' must concern itself with the betterment of his conditions and the enhancement of his capacity to contribute to the national income. There is no organization better fitted or more suitable to undertake the twin functions of village improvement and agricultural development than co-operation. The application of the co-operative principle is not confined to the problems of rural economy alone. It can be employed for the benefit of all classes of people, rural and urban, who want to better their economic condition by voluntary association and mutual aid.

### Government Policy

I need hardly state the great importance which the present Government attach to Co-operation as an instrument of rural regeneration and prosperity. As you may be aware, it has been made clear in the Congress Election Manifesto that one of the programmes which the Congress is pledged to carry out, is the establishment of a network of co-operative credit societies and banks in rural areas and towns, organization of village industries on a co-operative basis and the starting of a co-operative farming with Government assistance.

One of the earliest practical steps which the Congress Government took when they were in office before, was to appoint a Committee to examine the problems that confronted the movement and to suggest a new orientation of the movement to meet the situation created by the economic depression. Unfortunately, however, before the Committee could submit its report, the war broke out and the Congress Ministry went out of office.

It has been my earnest attempt as well as my desire to take up the threads where they were left in 1939. I have already taken up the question of reforming, strengthening and expanding the movement.



*The Hon'ble Sri V.V. Giri.*

### War-Time Expansion

As you are all aware, the years of the war have witnessed a phenomenal progress of the movement; a lot of new ground has been covered. Thanks, largely to the conditions created by the war and the zeal and the spirit of social service with which the opportunities were utilized by the co-operators, a notable part has been played by

the co-operative societies in schemes of food procurement and distribution, handloom weaving industry, co-operative milk-supply and marketing of fruit and potatoes. The speed with which the co-operatives responded to war-time needs is ample testimony to the vigour and vitality of the movement in our Province and a tribute to the unselfish services of a large body of non-official co-operators and the efforts of the officers who have been associated with the movement. To-day, the 1,400 primary co-operative grain stores, with a large number of their branches and depots and 21 district wholesale stores, exercise a most salutary effect on the prive trade in the Province. The sales of the retail and wholesale stores exceeded Rs. 25 crores during the last co-operative year. Co-operative milk-supply organizations, exceeding 217 in number, have played a no less important role in ensuring supply of pure milk to the people in urban areas. During the last co-operative year, they handled milk to the value of Rs. 60 lakhs. Co-operative weavers' societies have distinguished themselves by commanding nearly 40,000 looms and bringing into the market goods worth Rs. 350 lakhs in a year.

## Co-operatives for Food Procurement and Distribution

We are now in a period of transition, a transition from war-time to peace-time conditions. Besides tackling the immediate problems, we have to look ahead and plan for the post-transition period. Government have launched several schemes of distribution of foodgrains, cloth and of intensive rural development, and in these schemes the co-operatives have a great part to play. One of the very first thing which we have done after assuming office in connection with food administration, is to associate the people in a large measure with all matters concerning the procurement and distribution of foodgrains. We have set up village, taluk and district committees consisting mostly of the people's representatives so that the machinery of procurement and distribution may run efficiently and satisfactorily. We have also announced our policy that co-operative institutions, wherever they exist and are prepared to shoulder responsibility, should be utilized fully by the authorities and the committees. I have now and then heard complaints that some of the subordinate officers are slow in enforcing this policy. Believe me that the Government will not allow any officer to obstruct, interfere with or delay the enforcement of our policy. It is pleasing to find that the entire district-wide procurement of foodgrains has been undertaken by the co-operators in South Kanara, Tinnevelly, Vizagapatam and Bellary, and that in other districts many co-operative stores, wholesale and primary, have undertaken procurement and distribution in a greater or lesser degree. Apart from food-grains the co-operative stores have been distributing all controlled commodities including mill cloth and whereever distribution has been undertaken by them, they have been able to put down black-marketing and profiteering.

The benefits of co-operative distributive societies have reached even the industrial labourer. I find that there are about 70 such co-operative stores for the benefit of industrial workers in textile mills, factories and workshops and they have done not a little to ensure to them the distribution of the necessaries of life at cheap and economic prices. Similar employees' stores can be formed for the labourers engaged on the plantations and estates. In fact, I have been advising the tea estates to start co-operative stores for distribution of food-grains and cloth to the workers.

The future of consumers' co-operation will, I am sure, engage the attention of this conference. It is upto you to capitalize the war-given gains and make the co-operative stores a permanent feature of the normal distributive system. On behalf of the Government, I can assure you all the help and encouragement which these institutions richly deserve.

While on this subject, I should like to refer to the experiment that is being tried in Malabar and, more recently, in the Circar districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur, I mean the producers-*cum*-consumers' co-operative societies. The producer-cum-consumer society is an experiment in co-operative ideology and practice in so far as it seeks on a high co-operative and moral plane a reconciliation of the interests of the producer and the consumer. I am aware of the criticism levelled against these societies. I am also equally conscious that these new organizations are likely to affect the future of some of the existing co-operative organizations. Government believe that these societies will give a new orientation to the co-operative movement and bring into its fold a large section of the community which has all along remained outside it. It is necessary that there should be some sort of adjustment and compromise between the old and new societies. It is also the intention of the Government that these societies should ultimately function as multi-purpose societies. I am sure the Conference will consider the matter dispassionately and offer constructive suggestions for their sound development.

## Handloom Weavers' Co-operatives

Next to agriculture, the handloom weaving is the most important industry in our Province and more than a million people are dependant on it for their living. I have always felt that this industry can most successfully be organized on a co-operative basis. I am glad to notice that there are about 350 co-operative weavers' societies with 52,000 active looms under their control and that they produced about Rs. 350 lakhs worth of cloth last year and their sales were nearly Rs. 375 lakhs. After I assumed charge, I have reviewed the position as regards the supply of yarn to co-operative weavers' societies and have directed the societies should be given yarn to the extent of 20 per cent over the usual supplies made to private ration-card holders and also a permanent basic allotment of yarn requirements for about 52,000 looms now under their control. The Government have also removed the ban on the registration of new weavers' societies provided these societies consist of existing ration-card holders. With these additional facilities, it is my hope as well as that of the Government to see a considerable increase in the number of weavers' societies and the looms under their control in the very near future.

As you may be aware, Government have decided that the licences issued to cloth and yarn dealers should be overhauled and that suitable existing co-operative organizations which are willing to undertake the distribution of mill cloth and yarn should be fully utilized. Government have also made it clear that the existing rules regarding the basic period and other licencing restrictions will not be allowed to stand in the way of implementing this policy. I hope that co-operative weavers' societies and consumers stores will fully utilize the opportunities thrown open to them on account of this new policy and will help the Government and the public both in the matter of production of handloom cloth and in the distribution of handloom and mill-made cloth. It is my desire that all the five lakhs of looms in the Province should ultimately be brought within the framework of the co-operative organization within the shortest possible time.

## Co-operative Dairies

Supply of pure and rich milk is a matter of national importance. Apart from the obvious gain to public health in a province where available diet is so sadly lacking in nutrition, milk societies are likely to evolve into satisfactory dairies and lead to an improvement in cattle-breeding. Government have been encouraging co-operative milk supply organizations and affording them the necessary assistance. For Madras City, we have sanctioned a special scheme for improving the milk supply, as a result of which the production of milk has increased to nearly 7,000 measures a day. In order to formulate schemes for increased production of milk in urban areas through co-operative and private dairies, Government have recently appointed a Dairy Development Officer to work in the Co-operative Department. Government have under consideration a three-year plan for the formation and strengthening of co-operative milk supply organizations throughout the Province.

The problem of salvage of dry animals has also been attempted to be solved by the co-operative method A beginning has been made in this direction by the formation of a salvage society in Madras and it has been quite a success.

## Rural and Cottage Industries Co-operatives

The chief handicaps facing the rural industries are lack of finance and equipment, want of organised marketing agencies and absence of proper technical advice. There is a consensus of opinion that the most suitable method of organising cottage and rural industries is the co-operative method. Co-operative societies can provide the artisan with funds and arrange for the supply of raw materials and the sale of the finished goods. A few cottage industries co-operative societies, such as those for metal-workers, manufacture of leather goods, coir, etc., have indeed done well. But having regard to the great scope for development, much yet remains to be done. Government have under consideration a five-year plan for the development of cottage industries on a co-operative basis. Besides, under the scheme of intensive rural development in selected firkas, it is the desire of the Government that a survey should be made and cottage and rural industries should be organised and developed to ensure some degree of self-sufficiency in respect of consumer goods the rural folk require.

## Fundamental Problem of Rural Credit

Though co-operative village credit organisations have been in existence for over 40 years now, it is a fact that the money-lender, whether agricultural or professional, still constitutes a major source of rural credit. The Agricultural Finance Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries appointed by the Government of India, has suggested the constitution of Agricultural Credit Corporations to replace the private money-lenders. This school of thought considers that the existing co-operative banking organisations cannot be utilised as an alternative agency of credit (because they are not

equally strong in all Provinces and also because they are essentially autonomous bodies ruled largely by their own members) and that problems might arise in linking the co-operative banking structure with non-members. They envisage an agricultural credit corporation as an autonomous public body established by the State, operating under general official supervision and direction, but whose day-to-day working and normal business is largely conducted on an independent basis. But, I find that the Co-operative Planning Committee appointed by the Government of India is of the opinion that in all Provinces and States, the Provincial Co-operative Banks or other co-operative financing institutions will be in a position to provide the agriculturists with all the facilities which are intended to be given by the Agricultural Credit Corporations if the same measure and type of help proposed to be given to the credit corporations are extended to them.

There is again a school of thought which considers that, institutional credit being for the good of the agriculturists, the voluntary basis of rural co-operative credit organisations may be altered and statutory compulsion may be introduced to make all eligible villagers members of the co-operative credit societies or at any rate to bring the representatives of all the families in the village into the movement. A more conservative body of co-operators feel that the purpose might be achieved through a comprehensive programme of extension, a five-year plan of village credit co-operatives so as to bring every village within their influence. The Co-operative Planning Committee of the Government of India have recommended that an attempt should be made to bring 50 per cent of the villagers and 30 per cent of the rural population within the ambit of rural co-operative credit societies within a period of 10 years, in two five-year periods.

## Multi-Purpose Societies

Closely related to this is the proposal that the village credit societies should not confine their activities solely to the supply of credit but take up other activities, such as supply of seed, manures, and fertilisers, and implements, maintenance of stud-bulls, etc., and function as multi-purpose societies. This view has been advocated by the Madras Committee on Co-operation, the Famine Enquiry Commission and, recently, by the All-India-Co-operative Planning Committee. The Government have under consideration a scheme for the formation of multi-purpose societies in select firkas under the intensive rural development scheme. It is our desire to broadbase the village co-operative societies on a multi-purpose basis and try the experiment in these firkas. In the light of the results of the experiment it will be time to consider an extension of the system to other areas.

## Stabilisation of Agricultural Prices and Co-operative Marketing

Finally, I should like to refer to the co-operative marketing of agricultural produce. As you all know, Government have under consideration a five-year plan for the development of co-operative marketing of agricultural produce. The Agricultural Prices Sub-Committee, appointed by the Government of India, has recommended a scheme for the stabilisation of agricultural prices and suggested an appropriate machinery to be employed for fixing and enforcing such prices. One of its important recommendations is that reserve stocks should be built up by the Government for maintaining market prices within certain fixed limits and also for meeting emergency deficits arising from abnormal failures in crop production. In a plan like this co-operative marketing organisations would be of great assistance. Schemes of co-operative marketing of agricultural produce and plans for stabilisation of agricultural prices aimed at helping the producer are vitally inter-linked and inter-related. The five-year plan of co-operative marketing now under the active consideration of Government provides for storage facilities, processing, etc. It is possible that co-operative marketing organisations can well act as the agents of the Government or the Commodity Corporation envisaged under the plan, for procuring the stocks and carrying out purchase and sale operations. Final decisions have not yet been taken by the Government of India on the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Sub-Committee pending discussions at a Conference of Ministers of the Central, Provincial and State Governments.

We are on the threshold of very big changes in our national economy and the co-operative organisations have to play an important role. Many Committees of Enquiry have made suggestions affecting the co-operative movement. The Madras Committee on Co-operation (1939–40), the Famine Enquiry Commission (1945), the All-India Co-operative Planning Committee (1946), the Finance Sub-Committee of the Policy Sub-Committee on Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries (1946), and the Agricultural Prices Sub-Committee (1946) have all made a large number of important recommendations with a view to evolving clear-cut, comprehensive and co-ordinated policies and programmes. This problem is engaging my serious attention.

# Co-operative Exhibition Inaugurated

## Kumaraswami Raja's Opening Speech

1 9 FEB 1947

*The Hon'ble Sri P. S. Kumaraswami Raja*

The following are extracts from the address delivered, by the Hon. Sri P. S. Kumaraswami Raja, on the occasion of the opening of the exhibition organized by the XXVI Madras Provincial Co-operative Conference :—

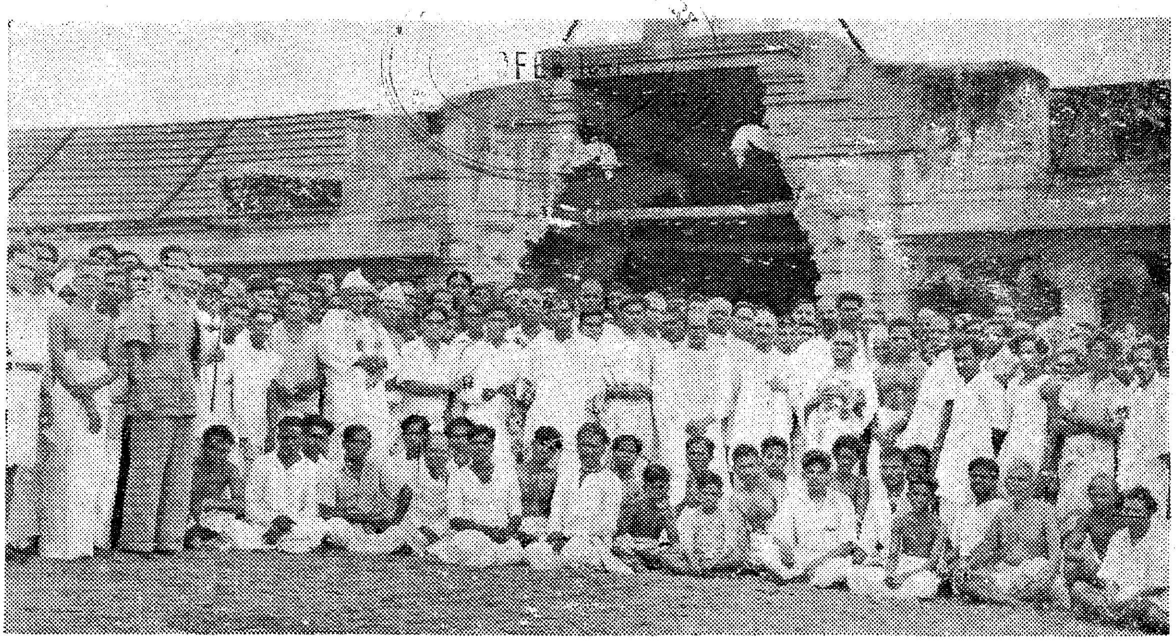
Co-operation has got a great future in this country. World politics is torn to-day between the two rival ideologies of Capitalism and Communism, the champion nations of which seem to be the United States of America and the U.S.S.R., respectively. The greatest political achievement lies in fusing together the good points of both while eschewing their defects. Co-operation affords this *via media* without running counter to our national traditions and culture. For over four decades the tree of co-operation has been growing on our soil. Although its growth has not been spectacular, it has been growing steadily and spreading over all our economic activities. It is a realization of its efficacy to solve many of our national economic ills that made the Congress envisage the development of a Co-operative Commonwealth in the Free India in its Election Manifesto of 1945. It is, then, obvious that ideals of co-operation are bound to permeate the entire texture of Indian economy.

This will be particularly so in view of the set up of Indian agriculture. Over 60 million families own among themselves the total area of 250 million acres of cultivated land. Most of them are small cultivators with uneconomic holdings and are, therefore, underemployed. No reasonable degree of prosperity can be brought about in rural India unless provision is made for the profitable utilization of the spare hours of agricultural population. Mechanization and large-scale farming will aggravate the problem of rural unemployment. Capitalistic large scale industrialization of the country offers little scope to improve the situation. Huge factories with elaborate machinery and big plants will not be able to absorb the millions of rural folk and give the proper employment. The abundance of manpower, wasting itself in enforced idleness, can be harnessed to productive activity only by a vigorous development of cottage industries on a wide scale. The stimulation and spread of cottage industries have a distinct part to play in the rehabilitation of the agricultural economy of this country. The most suitable mechanism for the encouragement of the cottage industries is certainly co-operation. Producers' co-operative soceities must be set up in every village and they should be organized to manufacture such commodities for which natural and other facilities exist. If this method of rural reconstruction is approved, the significance and value of Co-operative Exhibitions can scarcely be overestimated.

### Impetus to industry

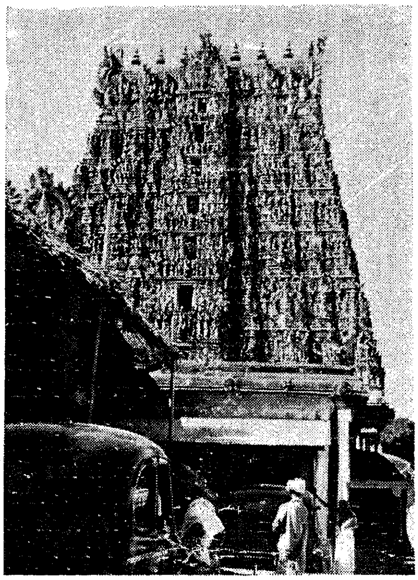
An exhibition of this kind is of pivotal importance in the economic regeneration of this country. It brings a vista of new light to the rural folk and the urban people alike. Among the thousands of visitors to this exhibition, a large section will be hailing from the countryside and the numerous and richly diversified exhibits will bring to their minds the innumerable possibilities of using their spare time and most of the materials going to waste in their villages.

The effects of an exhibition of this kind on the townsmen are no less remarkable. The exhibition



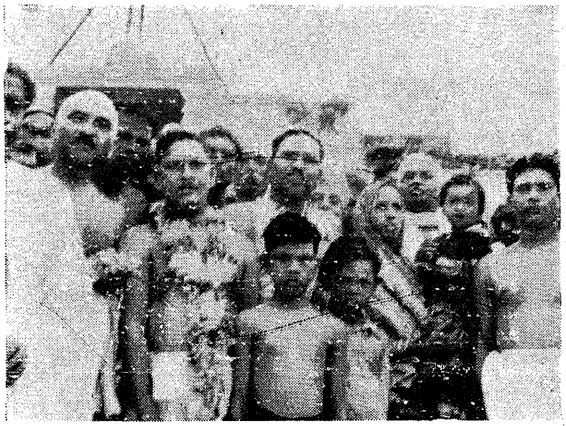
(Top) *Tiruchendur Subramaniam Temple was thrown open to Harijans on 14th November 1946*

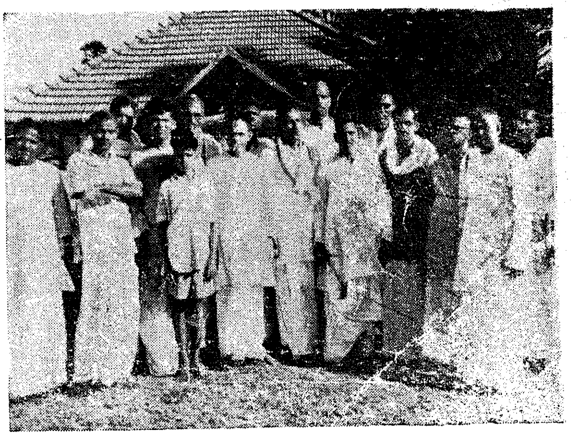
(Right) *The Suchindram Temple (Travancore) recently visited by Mr. V. Kurmayya*



(Bottom left) *Messrs. Kurmayya and Jag Jivan Ram (garlanded) after visiting the Tiruchendur Temple*

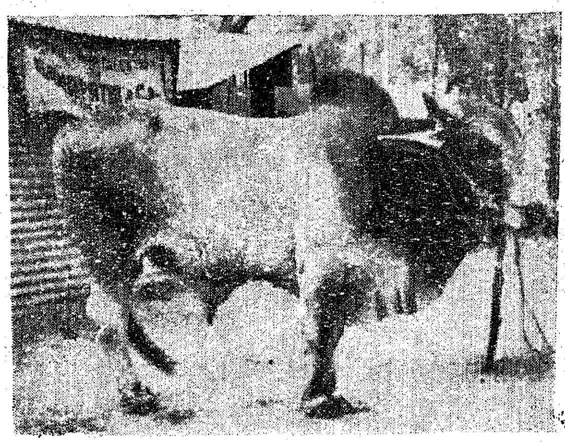
(Bottom right) *The State Congress Leaders received Mr. V. Kurmayya (fourth from right) at Cape Comorin*



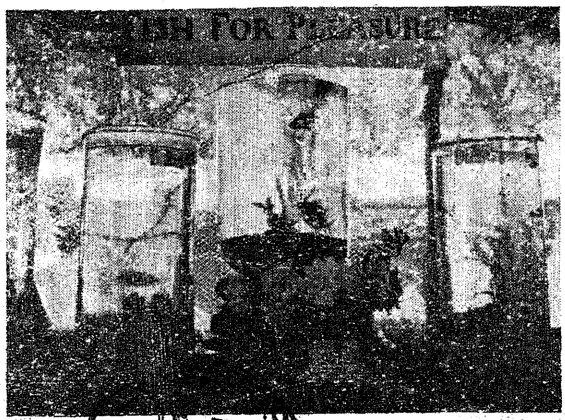


Registered No. 4767.

## Photos taken at the All-India Khadi and Swadeshi Exhibition

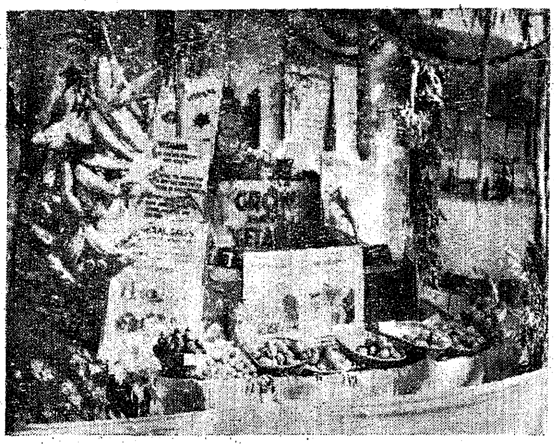


*A Sindhi Bull*

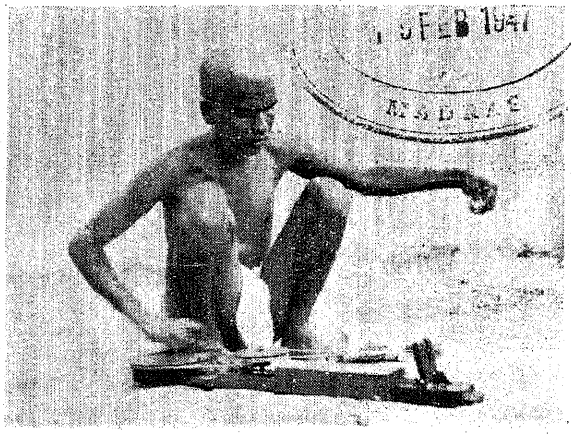
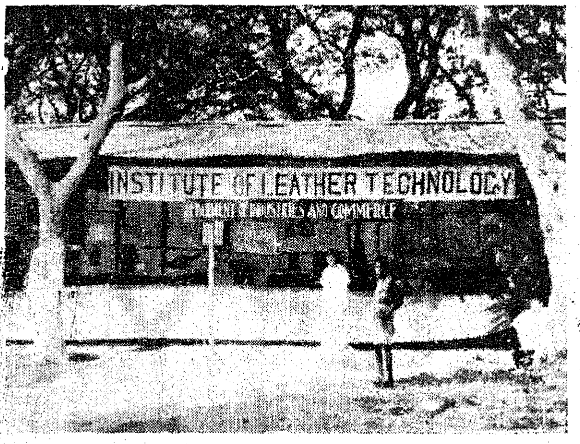


*Grow More Fish*

5 FEB 1947
MADRAS




*Grow More Food Campaign*



*A Blind Man Spinning*